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25 October 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ENERGY PARLEYS ON YEMENS--Manama, 15 Sep (AP)--South Yemen's oil and industry chief, Abdul Kader Bajmal, arrived in North Yemen Tuesday amid reports of unpublicized oil discoveries in common offshore areas. The Bahrain-based GULF NEWS AGENCY, in a report from the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa, said he will be holding talks on "coordination in geological mapping of water and mineral resources" in the two Yemens. [Text] [Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 16 Sep 82 p 1]

CSO: 4400/20

IRAN-IRAQ WAR VIEWED IN TERMS OF ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES

London ARABIA in English No 13, Sep 82 p 11

[Text]

☉ Iran has, regrettably, carried out its threat and invaded Iraq. It is therefore guilty of the same violation for which Iraq was condemned: neither national nor international law tolerates revenge, nor can reciprocity in crime be accepted.

It has been claimed – though not by Iran – that Islam does not recognise the boundaries that fragment the umma and that therefore Iran is reviving Islamic universalism. But the fraternal unity of the Muslim umma does not necessarily imply that there should be no private property for individuals or groups: Islam recognises and honours the rights of the individual, the family and any other important group (whether Muslim or non-Muslim).

The Prophet signed treaties with tribes and accepted their tribal entity. The fact that an Islamic caliphate once formed a universal state does not constitute a permanent legal principle, but is simply an historical event. Both before and after the caliphate, empires did not have any internal boundaries, although this does not imply that the Islamic caliphate was identical to other empires. Historically, the united Islamic caliphate did not last long, and there are many examples of coexisting Islamic states and caliphates. For what would now be called geostrategic reasons, some medieval jurists accepted in principle the plurality of Islamic states [see the works of Al Baghdadi (d.429AH/1038CE), Abu Yaala (d.458AH/1065CE), especially his "Al Mutamad", and Al Jawini (d.478AH/1085CE)].

For Islam, any agreement is sacred, whether it is made between individuals or political entities, Muslim or non-Muslim. All Muslims should therefore respect agreements with any non-Muslim state. The medieval jurists used the term dar al ahd, or covenanted lands, for a country whose people retained their independ-

ence and signed an agreement with a Muslim state that indicated mutual obligations. The rules of such a treaty should be observed by Muslims in their relations with covenanted people.

The Quran emphasises that honouring an agreement should always take priority over

supporting Muslims who are asking for help against a covenanted country: "... Yet, if they (that is, Muslims who do not live under Muslim sovereignty) ask you for succour against religious persecution, it is your duty to give (them) this succour – except against a people between whom and yourselves there is a covenant: for God sees all that you do." (8/72)

If it is compulsory for a Muslim state to honour all its treaties and promises, why should it not also abide by the contemporary international covenant that prohibits aggression against, and invasion of, any other country, whatever the reason? The solidarity of the umma, and the cooperation between its various countries and their peoples, can be seen within several political entities. The decision of two or more countries to form a political unity should be taken freely, without compulsion or pressure.

Iran's invasion of Iraq cannot be justified as a way to apply pressure for compensation for the damage inflicted by the Iraqi aggressors. It is widely accepted that Iraq is ruled by a nasty military dictatorship – but Iran cannot claim it has been given a mandate by the Iraqi people to rid their country of the oppressors. The Iranian invasion may, ironically, strengthen the Iraqi dictatorship. Moreover, there could be no free choice of a new government under

Iranian occupation. The Islamic Republic of Iran does nothing but use, with Iraq, the same language that the Israelis use in Lebanon, where they say they will evacuate as soon as a strong Lebanese government is appointed. No one can accept as a justification, if one can believe it at all, what the Iranian rulers have claimed about using the Iraqi land to fight Israel and liberate Jerusalem.

Khomeini has often repeated that he does not believe in exporting the Islamic revolution. Iranians, he has said, should represent the ideals of Islam in their national and international behaviour and thereby persuade others to follow their way. This wise policy is what we should really expect from the leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, along with a repudiation of conspiratorial or military action.

It is the urgent duty of contemporary Muslim thinkers and jurists to dispel all ambiguity by making clear which are the permanent laws of Islam and which are the juristic rules arrived at by *ijtihad*, which jurists practise according to the various social, political and cultural circumstances of their time. Muslims should make a clear distinction between what was revealed in the Quran and Sunnah as permanent laws, and what was elaborated by jurists by virtue of human reasoning or analogy – which may change with circumstances.

For those medieval jurists who recognised the geostrategic considerations of the plurality of states, the unity of the *umma* did not demand one Islamic state. A clear presentation of the principles of Islam is greatly needed in the contemporary world: the historical classification of *dar al Islam* (Islamic land), *dar al harb* (belligerent land), and *dar al ahd* (covenanted land) needs to be changed. Such concepts reflected only the human juristic elaboration of a given time, and their relevance in our world is questionable. This explains why they cannot always cope with the present international circumstances – and why there is such an essential need now for a new Islamic juristic *ijtihad* in national and international laws.

ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

MWL FINANCING FIRM--Makkah, 14 Sep (SPA)--A special five-member committee was formed here Tuesday to revise a study of an Islamic financing corporation during meetings of the Muslim World League's Constituent Council. During the sessions a number of pertinent Islamic issues were discussed, the meetings were presided over by Chairman Sheikh Abdul Aziz ibn Baz and attended by Secretary General Sheikh Muhammad Ali Al-Harakan. The council decided that the corporation should be an independent institution with permanent headquarters and its general secretariat based in Makkah. The corporation would have regional branches in all Islamic countries. The five-member panel was also endorsed by the MWL as a permanent panel to pursue the implementation of the project and report to the Constituent Council during the next regular session, according to MWL Assistant Secretary-General Mohammad Safwat Al-Saqqa. [Text] [Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 15 Sep 82 p 2]

CSO: 4400/20

EMERGENCY MEETING TO DISCUSS PRICES LIKELY

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 32, 27 Sep 82 pp 9-11

[Text]

OPEC member states are to hold consultations on whether to call an emergency meeting in Vienna of oil ministers on October 26, the UAE's Oil Minister Dr Mana Saeed al-Oteiba announced last week. He was speaking after a meeting of the organisation's market monitoring committee and he said consultations would be undertaken by the four nations making up the watchdog group — the UAE, Venezuela, Algeria and Indonesia. The emergency meeting, if it is held, would be a resumption of the last ministerial conference in Vienna which was formally suspended on July 10 after serious disagreements over production quotas and differentials.

There seemed to be elements of good news and bad news in Dr Oteiba's statement. The good news is that the monitoring committee clearly feels there is at least an outside chance that a gathering of all 13 ministers with decision-making powers would not end in the same disarray as in July. The bad news is that OPEC projections for fourth quarter demand for its oil are below earlier expectations, Nigeria is threatened with a buyers' strike and is therefore extremely unlikely to accede to requests to raise the differential on its high quality crude, and countries that are exceeding their production quotas by selling their oil at cut prices or are offering large hidden discounts show no signs at all of changing their ways. Indeed, Venezuela's Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, a member of the monitoring committee, said in Abu Dhabi that his country was not prepared to reduce its output from 1.9 million b/d to its OPEC export quota of 1.5 million b/d. Dr Calderon had raised Venezuelan production after both Libya and Iran ignored the ceilings on their exports.

Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins said

later, however, that his country would comply with any new OPEC production quotas provided that the organisation's members agreed on them unanimously. He said that during the 90-day period when Venezuela observed its 1.5 million b/d quota, it had actually turned down requests from clients to increase output. "We made the biggest sacrifice in cutting production and we complied fully with the resolution until the period ended," Mr Herrera told a press conference in Caracas.

The wisdom of holding a meeting in October is questioned by some senior officials, *An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO's* Randa Takieddine reported from London last week. She was attending a conference on *Oil and Money in the Eighties* organised jointly by the *International Herald Tribune* and *The Oil Daily* and she cited the officials as saying they felt October was too early a date. The same sources said they felt higher price differentials for African crudes which Saudi Arabia has been demanding were reasonable and justified by market conditions. They conceded, however, that Britain's official price of \$33.50 for its North Sea oil posed a major problem because the British are undercutting even Arabian Light crude with oil similar in quality to that of African exporters. The British National Oil Corporation has been resisting pressure to cut the price of its oil by a further \$1 per barrel but the sources said it was hard to see Algeria, Libya and Nigeria agreeing to higher differentials until Britain raised its prices.

Although they felt October was too early, the sources said the problem of differentials needed to be resolved as a matter of priority. They stressed that an answer must if possible be found before the second quarter of next year, when the seasonal drop in demand for oil during summer in the Northern Hemisphere could otherwise put still more strain on the fabric of OPEC.

Dr Oteiba said OPEC would do its best to defend the \$34 per barrel benchmark price for Arabian Light crude by sticking to its ceiling of 17.5 million b/d but he added that the committee felt more study was needed before a revision of differentials. Actual exports by the organisation's members have, however, been well below this level. Dr Oteiba said they were currently estimated at 16.8 million b/d and were likely to rise to between 20 and 21 million b/d during the final three months of the year when winter in the Northern Hemisphere traditionally brings higher demand for oil for heating. Indonesia's Oil Minister Dr Subroto earlier forecast fourth quarter demand of only 20 million b/d. Dr Oteiba said the committee saw some hopes for a recovery soon but conceded that "sluggishness might continue until some time in the future."

Nigeria has once again been singled out by oil companies as the OPEC member most likely to break ranks by cutting its official price and thus, perhaps, the organisation's entire pricing system. Industry sources in Lagos were quoted by *Reuters* as saying that some buyers were notifying the Nigerians they intended to ship only the minimum quantities of oil permitted by their existing contracts in October. The

sources said this could cut exports to between 900,000 and 1 million b/d from this month's level of 1.3 million b/d. Nigeria has been coming under pressure from Gulf producers, notably Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, to raise the differential for its low sulphur premium crude by between \$1.50 and \$2.30 per barrel above its present official price of \$35.50. This increase in differentials was proposed by a majority of OPEC

experts at a recent meeting. News of Nigeria's difficulties prompted Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah to comment in London that he thought buyers were "playing games" with Nigeria. He said he thought they were telling Lagos of their intentions to ship less oil than they actually intended to lift there. Sheikh Ali offered the oil companies some grim advice. Before trying to undermine OPEC prices, he said, the buyers should consider what a collapse of prices would do to their own profits.

Sheikh Ali acknowledged that OPEC may have difficulty defending the \$34 per barrel reference price and he predicted that the organisation would be unable to raise its price between now and 1985. Afterwards and until the end of the decade, he forecast, OPEC price increases would do no more than stay abreast of inflation. "The opportunity will be there for a united OPEC to preserve the per-barrel real revenue after 1985," he said. Sheikh Ali cited the recession in world economic activity as a key element in determining demand for oil — and the latest indicators are scarcely encouraging. Economists noted that industrial production in the US fell by 0.5 per cent in August and retail sales by 0.9 per cent. Salomon Brothers' Chief Economist Henry Kaufmann commented in his weekly message to the market that the lacklustre performance of the American economy in August suggested there would be at best only a very small increase in GNP for the third quarter. Chase Manhattan's Philip Braverman forecast in his weekly markets report that "the economic data will continue to demonstrate both that the recession is deepening, that the hoped-for recovery is nowhere in sight and that inflation remains subdued."

Sheikh Ali forecast that a lack of economic recovery and the consequent lack of increase in demand for oil would mean that OPEC "will definitely have greater adjustment problems — no doubt about it — and I hope OPEC will be able to cope with them. If OPEC does not cope with them and prices are reduced, this will be tragic for the consumers and the producers." Sheikh Ali noted that the number of exploration rigs operating in the US was down to half of what it had been a year ago even though the US was the country where exploration was financially the most attractive. "One can see how exploration in other countries will be cut drastically and one can see what will happen to investment in alternative energy if we inject an element of uncertainty by seeing the OPEC price reduced. I think both the producers and consumers would suffer in the long run," he commented.

Sheikh Ali also alluded indirectly to British prices, commenting that there now existed two price

levels in which high quality light crudes were cheaper than Arabian Light and lower quality heavier crudes. According to the Kuwaiti Oil Minister, premium crudes were now selling at a price based upon a \$32 marker which is \$2 less than OPEC's benchmark. This topsy-turvy situation could not be sustained, Sheikh Ali declared, "and we hope that we'll do something about it when we meet in Nigeria."

Meanwhile, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani said in London that Saudi Arabia had so far resisted the temptation to reduce its prices to boost sales for fear that abandoning the \$34 per barrel benchmark would hurt both OPEC and the world economy. Given the widespread fears that any downward move by Saudi Arabia could send the oil market into a tailspin, Ian Seymour, Executive Editor of the authoritative *Middle East Economic Survey (MEES)* has painted a grim picture for OPEC of what could happen if the Saudis abandoned the \$34 price. "The Saudis are well aware there is no possibility of an orderly retreat from the \$34 per barrel benchmark," he said in London last week. "The African exporters — whose prices even at official levels, are already some \$1.50-\$2.30 per barrel less than their true differential value vis-a-vis the \$34 per barrel Arabian Light marker — have made it clear they would match any Saudi price cut cent for cent. The outcome could only be a disorderly free-for-all leading to a downward price spiral with no discernible floor — at least not above \$20 per barrel. And this type of price movement could do nothing but perpetuate the recurring cycle of glut and shortage, boom and bust, in the energy market."

Sheikh Yamani, however, followed earlier warnings by Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, that the patience of Gulf exporters is not unlimited (*An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, September 20). "Unless and until there is an agreed-upon formula governing differentials, we are not bound by the marker crude price. I can tomorrow reduce my price from \$34 to \$30," Sheikh Yamani told *MEES*. "Only our sense of responsibility and our belief that in doing this we would hurt not only OPEC but the whole world has prevented us from taking action, but I am not ruling out the possibility of doing this."

Sheikh Yamani did not indicate how long a failure to resolve the dispute over African differentials can continue before Saudi Arabia's patience is exhausted. Sheikh Ali, whose exports are also being hurt by competition from African crudes, said that while the problem needed to be settled urgently, he did not think the situation required an emergency meeting of OPEC ministers between now and the regular six-monthly meeting of the organisation which is scheduled to be held in Lagos on December 9.

The other main problem for OPEC of exporters who ignore production quotas appears as intractable as ever. In Abu Dhabi, Dr Oteiba conceded that all he and his committee could do with offenders was to "plead with them kindly." Ministers belonging to the committee may soon visit Libya and Iran, to ask them to fall in line.

Even so, Saudi Arabia is reported to be taking a new approach to the problem of keeping additional oil from flooding the market. Mexico, although not a member of OPEC and therefore not bound by its rules, has appeared to be set to try to boost its exports of crude oil to rescue its economy from bankruptcy. According to reports last week, Mexico and Saudi Arabia are engaged in talks concerning a massive soft loan of \$12 billion which would enable the Mexicans to ride out their immediate financial troubles and the reports said interest on the loan would be at a concessionary rate of between 6 and 8 per cent.

Mexican officials who disclosed that the talks were taking place would not say whether Saudi Arabia was demanding in return that Mexico limit increases in oil output and keep its prices within the range of OPEC's pricing system, but the loan would probably have this effect whether or not explicit or implicit conditions were attached to it. Mexico recently concluded a deal with the US to sell an additional 110,000 b/d of its light Isthmus crude for a year beginning in October to the American strategic reserves at a price well below the official price of \$32 per barrel. The sale was made in return for an emergency loan of \$1 billion.

A financial cushion of the size being discussed would enable Mexico once again to seek the best price for its oil and to resist what American officials in Mexico are quoted as saying are efforts by the US Treasury Department to use Mexican oil as a battering ram against OPEC's entire pricing system. Mexico is certainly not motivated by any animus against the oil exporters' organisation. Exchanges with OPEC "could be one of the coming events for Mexico," the *Associated Press* quoted Mexico's Special Ambassador Fausto Zapata as saying last week. "We could reach a degree of agreement with OPEC without becoming a full member," Mr Zapata declared.

PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

JOINT INFORMATION POLICY--Abu Dhabi, 15 Sep (SPA)--A joint Gulf information policy based on Islamic teachings and principles proposed by the Gulf Cooperation Council was suggested Wednesday by information ministers meeting here for a two-day conference. A final statement also suggested that the council's information undersecretaries recommend promotion of coordination between the council states information and foreign ministries. The meeting delegated the council's general secretariat to prepare a full study on a proposed joint television channel in collaboration with the Gulf television. The statement said the meeting recommended publication of a joint daily newspaper to be relayed through satellites, running a powerful broadcasting station and a press establishment to prepare foreign information programs. Other recommendations included limitation on immigration of qualified information cadres and setting up a committee to study the possibility of unifying press censorship departments of Gulf states in cooperation with the council's secretariat, the statement added. [Text] [Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 15 Sep 82 p 2]

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RESEARCH ON RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORTED

Algiers ALGERIE-ACTUALITE in French 16-22 Sep 82 pp 12-13

[Article by Melle N. Kesri: "Renewable Energy in Algeria"]

[Text] This week, Vienna, the capital of Austria, has been the scene of two important international conferences, both on the problem of new energy alternatives. Here also -- and perhaps more than elsewhere -- a political split appears between those who have mastered and have technology and those wishing to gain access to it. And yet, the Third World has its word to say, as demonstrated by the proposals registered here and there. The following is a study done by an Algerian university professor¹ on one aspect of the vast domain of new types of energy.

From 20 to 22 June, Boumerdes was the location of a conference on semi-conductors during which a discussion was held of the applications of these materials in electronics as well as the field of renewable energies, where they make up the basis of photovoltaic cells. Previous articles² described in detail the manufacture and structure of these cells, particularly those said to be in the form of a p-n connector of monocristal silicon. In sum, the photovoltaic effect is the production of electric current as the result of the effect of light. Since the current is a flow of positive or negative electric charges, the development of a photovoltaic converter essentially consists of the assembly of two suitable semi-conductor materials, one of the "n" type containing an excess of negative charges (electrons) and the other of the "p" type containing an excess of positive charges (or holes). The oldest photovoltaic converter, historically speaking, and the only one still marketed is the connector of two pieces of silicon differentiated from one another by the addition of a minimal quantity of specific impurities, making them either "p" or "n". In February 1980,³ this type of cell was made in Algeria for the first time, in cooperation with the Semi-Conductor Laboratory of the SONELEC [Algerian National Company for the Manufacture and Installation of Electrical and Electronic Equipment] plant in Sidi-Bel-Abbes, which was willing to allow us to use the equipment used in the manufacture of electronic components. However, the cost of one watt of electricity obtained in this way is, given the present state of research, excessively expensive

(over 300 times more than one hydroelectric watt). That is the reason why, while continuing along this path, other methods are being explored, which explains the frantic race of many laboratories all over the world toward the discovery of new means and procedures making it possible to turn solar energy into electricity at competitive prices. At the same time and depending on possibilities, research on the monocrystal silicon p-n connector cell is still intensely underway. However, as previously described, this solution requires sophisticated equipment which, given our current phase of development, it would be illusory to hope to buy.

It is because of this concern and in order to make the most of existing equipment that the USTHB [expansion unknown] Semi-Conductors Laboratory has, with the participation of graduate students, embarked upon a project to make a new type of photovoltaic cells in the form of a silicon-tinstone connector instead of the silicon-silicon p-n connector. The choice of tinstone to make the collecting connector is the result of the special properties of that material, which obeys the following necessary conditions:

- 1) that it be transparent to the sun's rays, particularly the part of the ray that is absorbed by the silicon substratum. Tinstone begins to absorb wave lengths of under .4 microns, the ultraviolet to infrared range, the interval in which almost the entire solar spectrum is situated. Moreover, because the index of refraction is between that of air and that of the silicon substratum, it constitutes an excellent antireflecting surface minimizing losses of the sun's rays through reflection.
- 2) that it be a good conductor of electricity, which enables it to play the role of upper contact in the solar cell;
- 3) that it adhere to the silicon substratum so that a connection with a broad internal electric field is achieved, which permits the separation of the electron-hole pairs and the production of high voltages in an open circuit.

The procedure developed by the USTHB consists of placing a thin coat of tinstone on a silicon substratum placed in an oven at 500° C, by slightly heating hydrated tin salt and by "pushing" the resulting gases through an oxygen jet. Metal contacts are then made on the faces of the connector by the vacuum evaporation of aluminum or by placing silver lacquer followed by a circuit. The flow of oxygen plays an important role and the oxygen-tin link seems to be the cause of the heavy concentration of free electrons. This property was tested by varying the flow of oxygen. Actually, in its normal composition, the tinstone crystallizes in a tetragonal shape, in which each atom of tin is joined to six atoms of oxygen placed approximately at the points of a regular octahedron and each oxygen atom is crowned by three tin atoms placed approximately at the points of an equilateral triangle. The oxygen shortage brings about the creation of the "missing links," which in turn encourages the breaking of electronic bonds and the circulation of electrons. The cells obtained by this method provided us with a voltage of about .4 volt in an open circuit. It should be noted that in 1977, American researchers published results on the same type of cells with .52 volt, results obtained by a different method and which it has been impossible to repeat. In 1979, an Indian

laboratory announced a voltage of .48 volt. Although relatively humble, our first results are encouraging. In addition to applications in the field of renewable energies, this work has had other "fallout," such as the manufacture of conducting glass (glass on which a very thin film of tinstone is placed, less than 1/10 micron thick, which practically does not alter transparency), whose uses are many (transparent electrical resistance, transistors, solar energy panels, and so on).

Actually, the procedure used by the USTHB for the placement of such a layer of tinstone is not unheard of, but laboratories working in this field are not only very reluctant to give out information, but do everything possible to cover their techniques with patents safeguarding their interests. The method used during this work was, based on limited documentary information, to develop techniques making it possible to achieve appreciable results, especially since the latter were obtained without access to any foreign laboratory. Moreover, the interest shown by research laboratories in this material is proven by several signs: A reading of the bibliography, while lean on technical details, is equally abundant in generalities. In 1976, Canadian researchers published an article in which emphasis was placed on the dates when new methods of making this thin-layered product using chlorides or other tin derivatives were developed. More recently, such films were obtained by bombarding powdered tinstone with a beam of electrons. In January, one American laboratory pointed to the possibility of evaporating tinstone in a vacuum by using a pulsating laser beam.

The advantage of a photovoltaic cell of the silicon-tinstone connector type over the monocristal silicon p-n connector essentially has to do with the procedure and the simplicity of the equipment. Can it compete with the monocristal silicon cell? That is the subject of research now underway.

FOOTNOTES

1. Professor at the USTHB.
2. EL MOUDJAHED, 28 Sep 76: "Solar Energy: That Inexhaustable Alternative Energy of the Future." EL MOUDJAHED, 12 May 1977: "Toward the Harnessing and Profit-Making of Solar Energy." EL MOUDJAHED, 17 May 1981: "The Electronic Microscope: That Powerful Detector of Flaws in Semi-Conductors."
3. EL MOUDJAHED, 28 April 1980: "Solar Cells: From the Myth to Reality."

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RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS NOTED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 22 Sep 82 p 4

[Article by A. Benslama]

[Text] It was a particularly heavy agenda that was put before Sunday's meeting of the governorate's Executive Council, which on this occasion, and following its vacation recess, resumed its periodic sessions.

Work of the Council was presided over by Chaabane Ait Abderrahim, governor, assisted by members of the Coordinating Council bureau. Discussion mainly centered on social, economic and cultural affairs. However, while an examination of equipment projects for the 1983 portion of the 5-year plan occupied most of the time of the Council, another subject of great importance, rural electrification, also had a major place in this work meeting lasting over 4 hours.

In this field, in which decisions are centralized, the lag built up over the past several years is considerable. The situation has reached such a point that the governor did not hesitate to call it deplorable. Whatever the case, this sector is far behind others involved in development of the governorate.

It should be recalled that two years ago, it was decided to make a particular effort in the field of rural electrification in the district of Mila, within the framework of a general program to end the isolation of certain areas. In 1981, SONELGAS [National Electricity and Gas Company] did only 50 percent of the work. In 1982, by the end of May, only 36 out of the planned 100 kilometers had been completed. Between 1981 and 1982, there consequently remains a lag of 80 kilometers. This means that when SONELGAS plans its program for the next two years (1983-1984) for 300 kilometers, the 80 will have to be deducted.

The governor, who severely criticized the neglect and red tape within the company's regional directorate, announced his decision to go to the central administration of that public department in order to request the removal of certain officials.

A debate then began on the problem and proposals to electrify 35 rural centers and three communes were formulated, proposals that will obviously be put before the APW [Governorate Popular Assembly].

The second point on the agenda studied concerned the presentation, by the director of health, of a report on the proposed law to protect and promote public health and the Public Hygiene Code. These are two documents which, along with the regional health map, were examined at the last regional seminar presided over by the minister of health.

Before the Executive Council decided to spend time formulating its remarks, the Constantine APC noted four omissions in those documents in the fields of school hygiene, vacation resorts, nursery schools, day-care centers, pollution and industrial waste.

For his part, the governor mainly emphasized the fight against rabies, the vaccination of school pupils, who now have cards on file in the schools, and the slaughter of stray animals.

Another subject discussed at length was proposals to include some 60 projects in the 1983 phase of the 5-year plan. A single figure suffices to situate the importance of the achievements envisaged: 2 billion dinars in program authorizations, added to the 10 billion already allocated. Some 20 projects take up most of the credits, with 1,187,000 dinars. Agriculture is the prime concern, followed by housing, one of the main concerns of officials at all levels. In addition to the designing of 3,600 housing units, there are plans for the construction of 5,400 more, 1,500 in prefabricated dwellings and 500 rural housing units.

In addition to Constantine, two other communes (Ain-Smara and Chelghoum-Laid) will benefit from the program with 1,000 units each. In the other sectors, one should point out the development of crop-growing in greenhouses, the establishment of cold-storage chambers, sewage and sanitation projects, the expansion of storage facilities and warehouses, the construction of 15 CEM [College of Intermediate Studies], the setting up of 6 new ZHUN [expansion unknown], new sports and cultural facilities, administration complexes, consolidation of construction means, and so on.

The report presented by the director of planning and development of the territory gave rise to a long debate, during which several members of the Executive Council and the governor spoke. The governor particularly emphasized acceleration of the program of do-it-yourself construction and respect for schedules and deadlines.

Regarding waterworks, the city of Constantine is soon to have a new water source providing 100 liters a second.

Regarding culture, tourism, youth and sports, there are certain inadequacies in structures and delays in the completion of centralized projects. Nevertheless, for about the past year, officials have had the situation better in hand and some progress is being made, progress that will expand with the study or launching of several projects, particularly in culture and sports. Plans exist for the construction of five youth centers, four physical education centers, a youth camp, district playing fields and parks and a specialized reeducation center for girls.

Finally, the secretary general of the governorate made two reports, one concerning quality control for consumer products, emphasizing respect for standards of hygiene, and the second on lots to be built upon and the communities' obligation to go ahead with work.

During the meeting, the governor asked members of the Executive Council to demonstrate a spirit of initiative, not to let down in their efforts and to sustain a high rate of completion in all programs.

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TREATMENT OF OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS DISCUSSED

Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic No 305, 29 Aug 82 p 13

[Article by Ihsan 'Abf-al-Qaddus: Weekly Feature, "The Coffee House on Politics Street"]

[Text] The young man, still turning the pages of the newspaper, said, "Opposition newspapers are publishing scandals that would move mountains and cause volcanic eruptions. Here is another businessman the newspapers are writing about. He was charged with 17 counts of deception and fraud, and he was even accused of theft. Nevertheless, the state still welcomes him with open arms; it holds receptions for him; and it lets him seize land that does not belong to him. He builds make-believe housing projects on this land, and he uses these projects to bilk poor people out of their money. After the state began tightening its restrictions on him, he went to Sudan to bring about integration between the two countries: integration in crimes of deception and fraud."

The old man replied quietly, "This is the principal duty of opposition newspapers: they are to expose crimes and scandals to help the state eliminate them. It is a wise ruler who gives the opposition freedom to speak up, not so it can do away with him, but rather to help him get rid of those who corrupt his government, spreading destruction and corruption everywhere. I heard King Hasan, the King of Morocco, say one day, 'How would I know what is happening in my country if I do not let the opposition say what they want to say and those who support the government say what they have to say?' To a wise ruler, the opposition is like a public political police pursuing swindlers and saboteurs, especially big businessmen. 'Abbud Pasha, who before the revolution had a position comparable to that of 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman after it, used to pay opposition newspapers more than he paid the newspapers that supported him so they would leave him alone. Some of these newspapers, however, refused to take his money and exposed him."

The young man retorted sharply, "But the government takes no action on what opposition newspapers publish; it does not touch businessmen who are accused by these newspapers. Opposition newspapers did write in the past about a major crime of fraud that took place in the late Ahmad Hamdi tunnel project which runs under the Suez Canal. To this day the government has taken no action to apprehend the swindlers, nor has it begun an investigation with them, not even a superficial investigation. The result has been that people have forgotten about this crime,

and no one remembers it any more. [Meanwhile], swindlers continue to bilk people out of their money in fraudulent operations they carry out with assurance and impunity."

The old man remained calm and said, "There is no doubt that government newspapers respond to what opposition newspapers publish, and...."

Infuriated [by the old man's clam demeanor], the young man interrupted, "These are not merely partisan positions where parties engage in verbal battles. What National party newspapers publish in response to what is published by the newspapers of the Labor party, the Liberal party or the Front party is not enough. These are crimes against the state; they are attacks against the entire entity of the state. The whole nation is victimized by these crimes, and the state and the regime must interfere on the highest levels to protect the state and the people."

The calm, old man spoke listlessly, "The press law allows every individual who is accused of a crime by a newspaper to file a complaint with the prosecutor's office against that newspaper and to take it to court so he can establish his innocence and restore his good name. If the accused person does not go to the prosecutor's office, his lack of action would be like a confession of his crime. And even if he were satisfied with sending the newspaper a letter answering the charges made against him, that reaction too would not be enough. This is because the restoration of one's good name can only come about by the judgment of a court. [Proper] procedures also require the government to review what has been published. If the government has proof that a crime has been committed, it is to arrest the person who has been accused of the crime. And if the government finds nothing to substantiate the charge, it issues a warrant for the arrest of the editor-in-chief or it orders the newspaper to suspend publication, as was the case in previous days. But if the government keeps quiet and does not interfere in the situation and arrest the person accused or the editor-in-chief, this means that it has decided to overlook the matter and to lie low until people forget about what has been published because it is embarrassed and wishes to avoid being asked to take action."

The young man said as though he were crying for help, "How do we keep people from forgetting before [the authorities] get to the truth? In the past many crimes have been forgotten that were made public by opposition newspapers. These newspapers became silent, government became tight-lipped and people kept quiet!"

The old man said as he took the mouthpiece of the waterpipe to his lips and started puffing, "The only hope lies with opposition newspapers, but unfortunately, the opposition has only one daily newspaper that can bring people news about a crime each morning. Unfortunately, also, all opposition parties still exist under orders from the government. We do not have a single autonomous party that relies on the support of its followers. Therefore, opposition parties are sometimes compelled to keep quiet to survive. These parties are also poor parties; they lack sufficient capital to publish a daily newspaper that would exercise more influence on public opinion. In fact, magazines that are published by the opposition are still printed in government printing presses. That is, they are subject to the government's control, and what the government may allow them to publish today, it may deny them tomorrow."

The young man spoke quickly, as though he had remembered something, "People are beginning to think about establishing parties without having to get the government's approval. Kamal al-Din Husayn has begun preparations to form a political party. He will do no more than inform the Ministry of the Interior that the party was being formed. This was what was done in the past."

The old man spoke calmly, "This party will not materialize. Don't forget that we have emergency measures and that they may be extended for another year."

The young man paused for a moment. He was dejected, and his head was bent over his chest. Then he said, "What astonishes me is that these broad and serious charges are being made by the opposition against businessmen who are members of the government's party. The government's newspapers have not made any charges against any man who is a member of the opposition."

The old man smiled as though to console the young man and said, "These are all charges for crimes that were committed in the past."

Still overwhelmed by his dejection, the old man said, "We did have an opposition [party] in the previous administration also, but none of its members was accused of deception or fraud."

Still smiling, the old man said, "It is natural for every businessman, especially if he is a millionaire, to affiliate himself with the ruling party so he can do business. In the past some businessmen joined the opposition because there was always hope that the opposition would come to power. These days, however, the opposition would never come to power, and it will not be able to help businessmen. Even if we were to assume that a businessman would join the opposition these days, that businessman would [have to] be more apprehensive and more careful than one who relies on the ruling party. Therefore, he would [have to] think twice before becoming involved in a crime of deception, fraud or extortion."

The young man stood up, and as he began to walk away his resentment [became evident]. He said, "What astonishes me is that you speak so calmly despite the fact that the subject we are discussing is offensive."

The old man laughed and said, "Maybe it's because I have lived for a long time and there has been no letup in these offenses. I've found nothing to console me or console the country, and I've become accustomed to this. It's as though I am living in a country whose nature is like that--a country plagued by the storms of financial transactions and by swarms of rich people bleeding poor people dry."

The young man spoke with resentment in his voice, "All I want is for you to admit with me that the government is responsible for these crimes which affect the people's wealth."

"I admit it," said the old man as though he were being conciliatory and courteous.

EGYPT

NEW AIR CHIEF DESCRIBES CURRENT STATE OF AIR FORCE

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic No 2494, 11 Aug 82 p 15

[Article by Usamah 'Ajja: "The Commander of the Air Force Talks to AKHIR SA'AH: The Egyptian Air Force Is Not in a State of Relaxation"]

[Text] Everyone who has been following the events going on around us in the Middle East is holding his breath and pressing his hand to his heart. The region is boiling with violent struggles, some of which broke out awhile ago and are still going on, the best examples being the events in Lebanon and the Gulf, while others are about to explode and closely resemble a powderkeg dancing on a volcano.

In the midst of this atmosphere charged with anxiety and apprehension, questions are being raised on the extent to which our armed forces are alert, especially now that the stage of peace with Israel has started.

The questions in particular focus on our air force, now that the Israeli occupation and the full withdrawal from Sinai have been completed.

Another question is: is our air force, in its acquisition of weapons, depending on a single country, by which we mean the United States?

A third question is, where does the truth lie regarding the American F-16 aircraft, of which Egypt has received some of the amount contracted for?

AKHIR SA'AH brought these and other questions to Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Hilmi, the commander of the air force.

At the outset I asked Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Hilmi, "To what extent have the Israeli withdrawal and the start of the peace era affected the air force, especially since we know that with the end of war and the conclusion of peace the forces require a state of relaxation? Has a relaxation taken place?"

Traces of amazement marked with contempt appeared on the face of Maj Gen Muhammad Hilmi, who answered: "The expression 'relaxation' which you mentioned absolutely does not exist in the air force and is not to be found in the air force lexicon. Such relaxation is a luxury which the air force absolutely does not exercise. I can assure you that the real situation is completely the opposite, since there is training and it is continuous. How can you say that training activity has declined when the air force is assimilating modern weapons and equipment which logically require accelerated training rates?"

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid went on, "The air force exerts great effort to get its pilots and crews up to a high combat level that must be maintained constantly, and this cannot be done without constant intense training.

"You certainly realize that the air force is the swiftest major branch of the armed forces in reacting and responding to various conspiracies. As a result of the staggering development in air weaponry, air operations, which take minutes to carry out, could cost the party that stands up to them generations. This makes it mandatory that the air force be at the highest level of combat readiness, along with a high level of combat training, high level of fitness of aircraft and equipment, and concomitant high morale.

"Let me reiterate: could all that I have mentioned allow a word like 'relaxation' to enter into the matter, especially since the air force must exploit every minute available to it in peace to develop the equipment it has and to assimilate the new equipment it acquires, in addition to the improvement and increased levels and modernization in all administrative and technical insurance personnel which must be compatible with the modern equipment the air force possesses?

"As regards your observation that there are no airplanes in Egyptian skies, flight instructions and orders stipulate that flying is to be prohibited over major cities except by special authorization for orders that the execution of a specific task requires. Every air formation and unit has its own specific training area and is under radar surveillance; airplanes in the air formation are not allowed to go out of the training area allocated to them except by special authorization. This is all there is to it. I hope you agree with me that one cannot rule on the training level of the air force by comparing that to the rate at which aircraft pass over the main cities."

Electronic Firing Ranges

[I said] "From your response it is apparent that permanent readiness and constant training exist, in addition to ongoing mea-

sures to raise combat capabilities. However, as a result of the exorbitant cost of new aircraft, doesn't this training represent a burden on the government in light of the prevailing economic circumstances?"

Maj Gen Muhammad Hilmi said, "It goes without saying that we are sacrificing our lives for our beloved Egypt, out of our belief in the material burdens which training in modern equipment represents. In our desire to adopt the most modern methods of economic operation, the air force uses aviation simulators by which pilots and crews are trained in all forms of flight training and situations in which they might act during actual flight; after making sure that they totally understand what they will be doing, they then fly in aircraft. This puts great pressure on the money we will spend training pilots and crews in real aircraft, which are exorbitantly expensive. In addition to that, we know what expenses are involved in training pilots in firing from air to ground or from air to air, in terms of aircraft flight time and the weapons and ammunition actually used in training. In order to get the pilot to the requisite level, we are in the process of importing firing ranges which can be used to train all pilots in the air force to carry out all their combat missions through electronic tracking equipment which is installed in the aircraft and on the ground and through which one can become precisely informed of the training levels pilots have reached, without using weapons and ammunition, since all their calculations and the strikes they make are computed and immediately appear on electronic screens, and flight trainers immediately eliminate errors that might occur, greatly raising the fighting capability and training level of the pilots."

Diversification of the Air Force

[I asked] "How do you envision the future of Egyptian aviation?"

[He said] "Before I talk about the future of the air force, I would like to refer to the amazing development that has occurred in aircraft manufacture. A quick comparison between developments in aviation and those in artillery or armor will show that the development in aviation has been clear and obvious. Therefore we find it difficult to compare an airplane that was manufactured 2 years ago with one that was made 2 years later. This is obvious in the technological superiority which has been introduced into fighter planes in terms of navigational equipment, radar, radio equipment or firing guidance equipment, in addition to distinctive methods of maintenance and operation, and even of training technicians. In the air force, we find that there is an obvious difference between the airplanes we have acquired over a number of years -- MIG-17's, 19's, and 21's, Sukhoi-7's, or even Mirages, which are older than Phantoms -- and the aircraft that have entered service recently, such as the F-16 and the

Mirage 2000 upon their delivery.

"This difference in the old aircraft most simply appears in the different levels of complexity in handling electronic equipment that exists in the F-16 and the Mirage 2000. For example among the computers in the F-16, there is one that performs automatic fire control operations, since it does not allow the pilot to carry out a maneuver that is not carefully studied and could put the airplane in an embarrassing position. In addition, there are computers which perform precise navigation and precision use of the various numerous weapons the airplane possesses. One can realize the optimum use of aircraft through human elements that are able to deal with this electronic equipment in the context of the insane increase in equipment prices, as well as the immense number of spare parts.

"In light of this tremendous complexity, we have made it clear that a constant diversification process in acquiring arms is of utmost importance. Therefore, new types have been chosen -- the F-16, the Mirage 2000 and the Buffalo. This selection is not haphazard -- rather, it comes after deep study, especially since we are not choosing between the east and the west, or America, but are choosing from the international weapons arsenal. Therefore, where we select a Mirage 2000 from France, the arms with which it is equipped might come from Britain or America. Same with the F-16: the choice of weapons for that might lie with Britain or France. When we chose 'helsinook' for the aircraft, we chose ones from Italy; although they are made in America, Italian production is of high quality.

"This is all taking place in the framework of constant development of Eastern aircraft through a plan which for the most part has been carried out, wherein navigational equipment and fire direction have been modernized, along with the capacity that can be devoted to the weapons load, and they are now totally internally supplied with Western missiles, which is also the case with fire direction equipment, so that it has become difficult for us to say that they are simple Eastern airplanes -- rather, they have become modern new planes."

Just 30 Percent from America

[I asked] "Some people point out that the error the air force succumbed to in the past lay in determining that the source of arms supply should be the East. Is the arms supply now being totally concentrated on America?"

Maj Gen Muhammad *Abd-al-Hamid Hilmi, the commander of the air force, said: "Absolutely not. We get our needs from more than one country, not just America. Now no country can turn off the spare parts tap against an air force -- suffice it to say that

China is now among the countries that I deal with. In general, I get only 30 percent of the air force's requirements from America, and the rest comes from all the other countries in the world."

The Story of the F-16 Aircraft

[I said] "Some people have raised the point that there are breakdowns in F-16 aircraft that have caused America to recall the ones that have been produced. What are the facts on the deal that Egypt has made, and to what extent is it safe from this technical failure?"

Maj Gen Hilmi, commander of the armed forces, said, "There are in fact some sources which have said that the F-16 has had breakdowns but I can assert that all airplanes, without exception, have breakdowns. Therefore constant modifications are being introduced into all the airplanes in order to bring them to the highest combat level; it is not reasonable that breakdowns in the F-16s should constitute a burden on the air force, especially since many pilots have done an enormous number of hours of training in them. If there are breakdowns they are very minor and they have no effect on the capabilities and capacities of the airplane. Rather, to the contrary, the whole world considers that the F-16 is the plane of the future and will be operating competently after 2000, especially in the context of programs that will start in 1987 and will improve the plane's features, including navigation, sighting and retardation systems and radar and weaponry systems, in terms of air to air missiles, modifications in calculating weapons control and development in the data review system in front of the pilot."

Lessons of the Gulf War

[I asked] "What lessons have been learned from the Iraq-Iran War, as far as the air force goes?"

Maj Gen Hilmi replied, "You would be surprised to learn that the subject of the Iraq-Iran war has become very outmoded as far as the air force goes, although that does not prevent one from making current to enable us to derive a number of the lessons that are to be learned from this war studies?"

"In general, the Iraq-Iran war, and even the war in Lebanon, have affirmed that the air force is still playing a decisive role and is the major factor in operations. The glorious October war affirmed this theory through the first air strike Egyptian aviation made."

CONFLICT BETWEEN PROSECUTING, INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES PROBED

Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic No 300, 25 Jul 82, No 302, 8 Aug 82

/Article by Muhammad Najm: "Who Will Resolve This Overlap of Investigative Bodies, 2: The Department of Unlawful Gain, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Socialist Prosecutor"/

/No 300, 25 Jul 82 pp 48-50/

/Text/ Last week we addressed ourselves to the phenomenon of overlap in the law, which takes the form of a proliferation of investigative and trial bodies dealing with single incidents and a resulting interlinkage of jurisdictions and contradicting sentences. We presented examples where this phenomenon occurred, most probably the case of the former director of 'Ayn Shams University, as a practical instance of the existence of duplication among judiciary bodies.

On this issue, we will deal with overlapping jurisdictions between the Department of Unlawful Gain and the other judiciary agencies and will review the views of legal specialists on this phenomenon, to prevent the risks that arise from it.

The crime of unlawful gain, in the view of the law, occurs when any increase appears in the property of individuals and their families as a consequence of their exploitation of their service or capacities or as a result of conduct which violates stipulations of law or public morality, if this increase is not in keeping with the resources of the individuals and their families and they fail to establish that they had a legitimate source for it.

An authority subordinate to the minister of justice titled the Department of Unlawful Gain is in charge of supervising the application of the law on unlawful gain. It is chaired by a court of appeals counsellor and contains a substantial number of members of the judiciary. Its task also is to facilitate the mission of the examining and investigating authorities which are in charge of examining and investigating complaints and statements on financial malfeasance related to unlawful gain in the case of people to whom the /unlawful/ gain law applies — a law which is considered a translation of the well known expression "Where did you get that from?"

Two things concern us so far as this property is concerned. The first is the power of the examining and investigating authorities in the Gain Department to prevent accused persons from disposing of and managing their property.

The second is their power to file criminal cases on "crimes" of gain.

On the matter of preventing accused persons from disposing of and managing their money, the Criminal Procedures Law gives the public prosecutor this right regarding crimes of trespass against public property, as long as there is adequate proof of the charge.

The law on impropriety gives the socialist prosecutor, in some cases, a similar power, along with the power to request the imposition of sequestration on property through a verdict issued by the court of values. That might happen in the case of incidents whose investigation is assumed by the Office of the Public Prosecutor, where the public prosecutor has the power to order a prohibition on the disposition or management of the property.

In the opinion of Counsellor Salah al-Rashidi, the public prosecutor, while the law on unlawful gain bestows on the examining and investigating authorities the power automatically to file criminal cases regarding crimes of unlawful gain, they must await the actions of the prosecutor's office with respect of crimes where unlawful gain is at issue, if the latter has been investigating these incidents. That is what happened in the case of Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sulayman. The investigation and examination [authorities] in the unlawful gain department proceeded to bring him to criminal court for the crime of unlawful gain while the charge of embezzlement levelled against him was still before the Office of the Public Prosecutor, which was investigating it; it had not dealt with it yet, and was waiting for the appointed experts' reports on it.

"Therefore," Counsellor Salah al-Rashidi went on, "I believe that it would be necessary for the Office of the Public Prosecutor alone to have the right to file criminal cases concerning crimes of unlawful gain. It is not reasonable that the accused persons should be brought in on the charge of unlawful gain as a consequence of this embezzlement of public funds and that the prosecutor's office should not yet have acted or made its statement regarding the crime of embezzlement ascribed to them. Before the issuance of the law on gain, the case was that it was the prosecutor's office alone that filed the criminal case against the accused if he embezzled or was responsible for public funds and at the same time investigated him for a crime, and the court reviewed the two crimes at the same time."

Counsellor Salah al-Rashidi mentioned one case in illustration of this statement. The Higher Office of the Prosecutor of Public Funds brought a bank employee to court on the charges of embezzlement and unlawful gain both. He had embezzled close to a million pounds but, in spite of that, his file was sent to the Unlawful Gain Department, with a notation placed on it that it was to be filed because there was no suspicion regarding him, and he was sentenced to hard labor for life.

As one man says, if three different judiciary bodies have the right to issue an order prohibiting the accused from disposing of and managing his funds at the same time, that puts them in a competitive position, vying with one another to establish their position as to which one can take precedence over the others. More serious than that, according to the law on unlawful gain, if it is proved to the investigating and examining authorities that there is strong suspicion

that a crime of unlawful gain has occurred, they have, in addition to their right to issue an order prohibiting the accused and his wife and minor children from disposing of and managing their property and to take retentive measures, the right to appoint the Office of the Public Prosecutor to investigate specific facts. Not only that — if they consider that there is adequate proof in the case of the accused regarding his commission of the crime of unlawful gain, they can issue an order that he be brought to trial, assign the Office of the Public Prosecutor to notify the accused of the conclusive evidence, and immediately send the papers to court to set a session for review of the case. The Office of the Public Prosecutor will represent the prosecution before the court. How can the Office of the Public Prosecutor take a case to court as a prosecution representative in a case whose investigation it has not assumed charge of and on whose features it has not become sufficiently informed in order that it can perform its duty as properly as possible in conducting the prosecution before the court that has the jurisdiction to review the case on unlawful gain?

The same source adds that if the law on gain considers that any increase has occurred in the property of the accused and his family as the result of his exploitation of service or position or his violation of laws or morality, that is to be considered unlawful gain. The penal code considers the mere attempt to obtain a profit by exploiting a position or post to be a crime; Article 115 of the penal code states that any public official who has improperly obtained, or attempted to obtain for himself, or has improperly obtained or attempted to obtain for others, a profit or interest from an activity involved in his position, will be punished by hard labor for a specific period of time.

It has happened that the Higher Office of the Prosecutor of Public Funds brought a former Religious Endowments Authority head to trial when he signed an investment contract with other persons in a personal capacity so that if he left the position he would continue to benefit from the contractual arrangement. The source's statement concluded: While the law on unlawful gain stipulates that a punishment of imprisonment and a fine equal to the value of the unlawful gain is to be imposed, in addition to the verdict that the amount obtained through the crime be returned, it also stipulates that the penalties provided in the law on gain will not prevent the imposition of any severer penalty provided for in other laws.

The penal code states that if a single action entails several crimes, it is necessary to take the crime whose punishment is the most severe into account and rule that that is to be punished to the exclusion of others; if a number of crimes occur for a single purpose and they are interconnected in a manner which does not admit of separation, it is necessary to consider all of them a single crime and to impose the penalty prescribed for the most severe of these crimes.

The question here is, if someone commits a forgery of documents, or embezzles or appropriates public funds, and exploits his position or his capacity with the goal of realizing an unlawful gain, the provisions of the previous article will apply to him.

If the penalty for the crime of unlawful gain is considered, in the law on felonies and the prosecution of felonies, to start with hard labor for a specific

period of time and end with execution (if there are extreme circumstances in specific cases), alongside the subordinate penalties that the law stipulates, which also start with the removal of the person from his position and the confiscation of his property, in addition to fines and the elimination of some of his rights and privileges, is it permissible for a single body, the Office of the Public Prosecutor for example, to take charge of investigating the crimes arising from a single act?

Counsellor Sahib Hafiz, the principal public attorney of the Higher Office of the Prosecutor of Public Funds, answers these questions by stating,

"As soon as a person yields to a crime, he faces an attack from more than one body, the first of which is concerned with the general prosecution of his criminal act. The Office of the Public Prosecutor will base itself on that. If his deed represents an act of political corruption and a threat to economic interests, he will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the law on the protection of values from impropriety, which is a matter which concerns the socialist public prosecutor. The same criminal act could also lead to an increase in the person's financial malfeasance, and he will be prosecuted in accordance with the law on unlawful gain. The same act could also constitute an administrative or financial violation, in which case the person will be taken to disciplinary court.

"As regards unlawful gain, which is the basis of the question, it is natural that all crimes involving public funds have the effect of increasing the property of the accused, and consequently of subjecting the accused to the provisions of the law on unlawful gain. Normally the Office of the Prosecutor of Public Funds would proceed to notify the Unlawful Gain Department of the submission orders issued with regard to these crimes, so that the Department of Unlawful Gain can exercise its jurisdiction as stipulated by law vis-a-vis the person accused of these crimes. Trying the accused before criminal court on crimes of unlawful gain should be considered totally separate from trying the accused for crimes against public funds. The verdict issued on a crime of unlawful gain will have no effect on the procedures of reviewing crimes or verdicts regarding public funds. Why is that? Because the principle of the force of the matter being litigated requires that the charges be combined. In the case of crimes on public funds, the charge is considered punishable by provisions of the penal code. That is a matter which differs from the penalties set forth for the charge of unlawful gain." Counsellor Sahib went on to state,

"The provisions of Article 22 of the penal [code] state that if a single act has resulted in numerous crimes and so forth, they will have no effect on the foregoing, since the concept of the provisions defines crimes in accordance with their legislative definitions, which stipulate penalties in the penal code or other supplementary laws."

Because of the significance of this statement, and because it differs from the opinions of many legal authorities, Counsellor Sahib Hafiz explains it by saying "Crimes consist of a number of elements: the act, the intent, the particular characteristic of the funds or the official), then the objective, which in some

cases is called the special objective. The description involves all these elements, and it is the crime as described in the context of a specific law that provides the justification for the cases. However, if the act, which is one of the elements of the crime, constitutes a crime in accordance with the stipulations of a law other than the penal code, that means that the elements of the penalty stipulated in the other law came together to produce it. For example, the act of murder in itself might constitute a crime of intentional homicide, it might constitute a crime of battery which resulted in death, it might constitute a homicide misdemeanor if deliberate intent was not present, and it might not constitute any crime, if it appears that it arose totally through the fault of the person against whom the crime was committed."

Does that mean that a single act can constitute numerous crimes in accordance with the stipulations of the various laws? Some people say yes, some say no.

The argument people who say yes use is that in the automobile smuggling case, in which 11 merchants were indicted, the office of the prosecutor brought them to trial on the charge of committing forgery, using forged documents, deliberate damage and participation in that, and they were found innocent. The criminal court based itself on the absence of certain elements in the crime attributed to the accused, the special objective and so forth. Meanwhile, these accused persons were brought before the court of values on the charge of economic corruption in accordance with the law on impropriety, whose elements differ from the preceding crimes, and the court of values ruled that sequestration should be imposed on their funds.

What about differing views?

Prof Ahmad al-Khawajah, the lawyer, states, "If we have recently witnessed some strange consequences because of the proliferation of indicting bodies and courts, such as the fact that a person accused of a single crime is brought before the court of values, then the criminal court, for crimes of unlawful gain, then again to the criminal court for crimes of appropriation which were the basis for bringing the charge of unlawful gain, and the verdicts then contradict one another, ranging from condemnation in the first (the court of values) to innocence in the second (the criminal court), although the incidents were the same and the witnesses and evidence were the same, that should be an incentive to prevent the proliferation of interrogations by preventing the proliferation of forms of liability in a single legal context.

"That is the basis on which our judiciary system operates. It considers, for example, that verdicts on criminal matters bind the civil judge to specific stipulations and fixed rules on a question on which the criminal law rules and bind the disciplinary court to the same context as well. However, the failure to hand down criminal verdicts before the court of values, if they have not become final before the verdict in that court — before the court rules on the case brought before it — is something that has to be remedied."

The remedy, in the opinion of Ahmad al-Khawajah, is firstly to abrogate the system of political trials before the court of values. Otherwise, at the least, one

should adopt the verdict stipulated in the law on procedures, which is that the case should be suspended before all courts until the criminal court rules on the original incident brought before it; the ramifications of the case can be ruled on in the light of this ruling.

Ahmad al-Khawajah adds, "Since there are numerous judiciary agencies, the limits between them must be sharp and their jurisdictions clear. The Council of State was established in the context of the ordinary judiciary, it was based on the men and the exceptional personalities in it, and no one had misgivings about its establishment -- indeed, its establishment was a legal requirement, because it arose in order to look after people's rights and freedoms and to give people legal guarantees which they had not enjoyed before it was established; the ordinary judiciary did not have the right to rule on contestations made against administrative decrees -- the Council of State originated in order to give people this right." Prof 'Ismat al-Huwari, the lawyer, considers that duplication in the powers of investigating or trial authorities is the most dangerous thing people face in the judiciary area. The source of the danger is the fact that every decree issued and every verdict handed down bears on the imposition of justice alone, and that is a relative justice. If that is not justice by nature, then it is at the very least justice by decree!

In his opinion, nothing is harder for people than when verdicts in their regard by investigating authorities contradict one another and verdicts by the judiciary bodies in their regard conflict with one another. These authorities include some which specify that they are innocent and others which consider that they are guilty. This is a distortion of the meaning of justice and of the sanctity on which it must be based.

'Ismat al-Huwari considers, "The phenomenon of duplication penetrated into our legislation in the realm of justice in the wake of attempts to politicize the change of justice, although justice and politics are opposites that cannot be combined, since justice derives from the spirit of God and politics is the work of man, and justice weighs matters in the balance while politics has differing interests as its objective.

"For example, the socialist public prosecutor's agency stipulates and acts from political premises; in its conduct and opinions, it might contradict the normal investigative authority, which is the Office of the Public Prosecutor. Similarly, the court of values, which rules on certain issues, might issue verdicts that are in contradiction with verdicts issued by ordinary judiciary bodies. The danger of duplication in investigative and trial authorities has recently been reaffirmed to the point where bewilderment has seized people and it has become impossible for them to know which bodies are the closest to justice. You have two blatant examples which require that men of the law, more than men of politics, pause to take notice. The first example concerns Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sulayman, against whom political fate brought an accusation aimed at infringing on the man's scholarly repute. We see the court of values issuing a verdict of guilty, while the criminal court, the ordinary judiciary, issues a verdict declaring the man innocent, after a long period of torment. I am not stating that the verdict which the criminal court issued, finding him innocent, restored the lofty man's status; he never lost it. Rather, the verdict cries out for our help, so that

we can all venture to eliminate the duplication. The second example is also a blatant; it concerns the contradiction between the Office of the Public Prosecutor on the one hand and the agency of the socialist public prosecutor and the court of values on the other, which became apparent through the trial of Rashad 'Uthman. At a time when the fingers of accusation were raised and extended to a former deputy prime minister and a former minister, a charge was brought against them in a case filed sent by the representative of the socialist public prosecutor's agency, then in a verdict by the court of values, while the Office of the Public Prosecutor presented with a statement declaring that they were innocent of everything attributed to them. Bewilderment overcame people and they wondered which of the decrees were the closest to justice!"

'Ismat al-Huwari concludes his statement by saying "these are some of the blatant forms which the duplication in investigative powers and the trial bodies has yielded. These forms will proliferate and spread if they continue to exist."

From the foregoing, we can summarize with a number of points which need to be remedied. These are the proliferation of bodies which impose sequestration on the properties of people and their families if they are charged with certain crimes, especially crimes of trespassing against public funds, monopolization by the Department of Unlawful Gain's investigating and examining authorities of the filing of criminal cases without coordinating with the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and the inability to depend on verdicts issued regarding a single act. Indeed, we consider that if a single act involves several crimes, a single body must take charge of investigating the person who committed that act and should hold him to account for all aspects of the charge, in order to keep the person from being broken into pieces and distributed to various investigative bodies. Consideration must be given that the accused person is innocent until his guilt is proved in a final, conclusive verdict.

Next week will be spent with the socialist prosecutor and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

/No 302, 8 Aug 82 pp 32, 33/

/Article By Muhammad Najm: "Who Will Resolve This Overlap, 3: The General Prosecutor and the Office of the Public Prosecutor"/

[Text] In this installment of the study on the phenomenon of overlaps in the law, we will deal with the jurisdictions of the socialist public prosecutor and the existence of duplication and overlaps that practice has revealed between the [socialist] prosecutor's agency and the Office of the Public Prosecutor, on two issues: preventing the accused from disposing of or managing his property, and investigating the acts which constitute a threat to economic and political interests on the basis of the law on impropriety. In the latter case, such acts are considered deleterious to the public interest and harmful to the security of the state, domestically or abroad, in accordance with the penal code.

According to Article 179 of the constitution, the socialist public prosecutor is responsible for taking measures which will guarantee that the people's rights and the safety of society and its political system are guaranteed and that the gains of socialism are preserved. He is subject to oversight by the People's Assembly in exercising his areas of competence, as governed by the law protecting values from impropriety (Law 95 for 1980).

The socialist prosecutor is competent to take measures to retain people's property and order that it not be disposed of or managed in circumstances where there is serious evidence that the person committed acts which entailed harm to the security of the country, abroad or domestically, or to the economic interests of society, corrupted political life in the country, or subjected national unity to danger.

[This applies] also in cases where people's wealth has become inflated because of exploitation of position, job or occupation or the use of fraud, conspiracy or bribery in the person's pursuit of their activity.

[It also applies] to smuggling or trafficking in drugs, unrightfully appropriating public or private property owned by the government, trafficking in contraband or on the black market, speculating with people's livelihood, and so forth.

If a person commits any of the acts we have mentioned or his wealth becomes inflated for any of the above reasons, the socialist prosecutor can issue an order preventing the person from disposing of or managing his property and can bring him before the court of values with a request that sequestration be imposed on this property and that the accused person be detained, if need so requires, in accordance with the law imposing the imposition of sequestration and guaranteeing the safety of the people (Law 34 for 1971).

The abovementioned acts are considered crimes, according to the penal code, as they entail harm to the country's national interests or detriment to the security of the state, domestically or abroad, and constitute trespass against public funds. The criminal procedures law gives the public prosecutor the right to issue orders prohibiting a person from disposing of or managing his property simply if there is enough evidence of the seriousness of the charge concerning these crimes, which represent trespass against public funds. The public prosecutor can also issue orders prohibiting the disposition or management of the property of the accused person's wife or minor children, unless it is proved that this property accrued to them other than through the accused person's property.

The power to order a prohibition on the disposition or management of property, which the laws grant to the public prosecutor, the socialist prosecutor and the investigating and examining authorities in the Unlawful Gain Department, provokes a debate among people of the law.

Some people, headed by Counsellor Salah al-Rashidi, the former public prosecutor, consider that the jurisdiction must devolve upon the public prosecutor alone, because criminal investigations into trespass against public funds are under his aegis and he is best able to deal with the circumstances of the charge and appraise the evidence.

Certain others, headed by the people working in the agency of the socialist public prosecutor, consider that every action must be judged by the purpose behind it and that there is a difference between the powers of the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the socialist prosecutor in respect to the retention of property. The Office of the Public Prosecutor has the right of retention only in the case of crimes against public funds, while the socialist prosecutor can impose a retention in cases of harm to state security or the economic interests of the society or in the case of inflated wealth due to the exploitation of position or influence, all cases of trafficking on the black market, or the appropriation of public property.

The Office of the Public Prosecutor can issue orders retaining the property of the accused, no matter what its source or value might be, while, in order for the prosecutor's agency to issue an order of retention in the case of public property, the property must be of a certain size and its inflated nature must be the consequence of the appropriation of public or private property owned by the government.

The purpose behind the issuance of the retention decree by the Office of the Public Prosecutor is to guarantee that fines that might be levied are paid, to return the sums or values of things that were the object of the crime, or to compensate the body against which the crime was committed, while the objective of the socialist prosecutor's decrees is to deter a threat against society by the person of the accused and to return property to the people, if it is proved that it was derived from unlawful gain.

The final difference is that the public prosecutor's decree remains in effect from the time it is issued until the date of the verdict in criminal cases, while the socialist prosecutor's decree must be submitted to the court of values within 60 days of the request for the ruling imposing the sequestration.

The open and published views of the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the socialist prosecutor's agency differ with respect to the power of each to retain property. Where does the truth lie? What would be best for the accused person and for society, if the right to retain property were restricted to one of these two bodies?

A man of the law says that there are some facts which must be first mentioned before one asks that question. These are that in most of the acts and causes which require the imposition of retention on the property of persons by the socialist prosecutor and constitute crimes of trespass against public property, it is the public prosecutor who has the right to issue orders retaining the property of the accused or determine that there is a threat to the national interests and security of the country. The public prosecutor can request the competent court to impose subsequent penalties on the accused person in regard to these crimes, most important of which is the confiscation of the person's property, as happened in the case of a homeopathic doctor who was accused and imprisoned for working on behalf of a foreign country.

The law also compels the socialist prosecutor to present his decree to the court of values to rule on it. The procedures law gives everyone involved the right to contest the public prosecutor's decree before the court reviewing the case or the misdemeanor court of appeals in the counsel chamber. It does not stipulate a specific period for doing so. The public prosecutor can also change or amend what he has ordered.

What is best for the accused person and society at that point is that the right to order retention of property be restricted to the Office of the Public Prosecutor alone. Why is that? Because while the public prosecutor issues orders only on grounds that there is sufficient evidence of the seriousness of the charge, which is the same reason given to the court of values, this evidence is derived from the criminal investigation by the original body holding jurisdiction, namely the Office of the Public Prosecutor, whose investigations are carried out under the guidance of the law on criminal procedures. In addition, the retention of property is temporary, until the original case is ruled on by the competent court — which might uphold the innocence of the accused!

As a consequence of this duplication in jurisdictions, the socialist public prosecutor issued a decree imposing retention of the property of the former director of 'Ayn Shams University. The court of values ruled that sequestration was to be imposed upon him because his property had become inflated as a result of his exploitation of influence and position and his appropriation of public property; meanwhile, the public prosecutor did not use his right to impose retention while the Office of the Public Prosecutor was investigating the same incidents, in which the criminal court gave a verdict of innocence, on grounds that that was one reason why the former director of 'Ayn Shams University obtained unlawful gain.

In addition, both the public prosecutor and the socialist prosecutor issued a decree imposing retention on the property of Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hayy, and the socialist public prosecutor brought him before the court of values, while the Office of the Public Prosecutor was still continuing its investigations.

The second question which entails a duplication between the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the socialist prosecutor concerns some acts which are covered in Article Three of the law protecting values from impropriety giving the public prosecutor the power to hold the people committing the acts politically to account. These consist of crimes which are punished by the penal code and other penal laws which the Higher Office of the State Security Prosecutor is competent to investigate. These include an open invitation to acts which entail contempt for or conflict with the provisions of divine legislation or the open provocation of youths and young people to deviate by calling for a renunciation of religious values or loyalty to the nation or publishing or broadcasting false or tendentious news, statements or rumors or provocative propaganda, if that is done openly and has the effect of harming the country's national interest.

Although the Office of the Public Prosecutor is competent to investigate these incidents criminally there are certain restrictions which impede criminal investigations, as Counsellor Raja' al-'Arabi, public attorney with the Higher Office of State Security, says. In accordance with the law protecting values from impropriety, one can file a criminal suit for any acts stipulated in this law only on the basis of a request from the socialist public prosecutor.

He adds that according to Article Nine of the law on criminal procedures, one cannot take any measures to conduct an investigation until this request is issued. Consequently, the prosecutor's office cannot venture to investigate any of the crimes mentioned in the law protecting values from impropriety until the request is received from the socialist public prosecutor. Counsellor Raja' al-'Arabi comments, "There is no doubt that this is obstructive, since there is difficulty in making contact between the Office of the Public Prosecutor, which is spread out over all areas of the republic, and the socialist prosecutor's agency in Cairo and on informing it of the commission of these crimes so that it can issue the request before conducting the investigations into it and subsequently demand to conduct a criminal investigation. A long period of time could elapse, which might shake the evidence and lead to the weakening or disappearance of the evidence."

The former public prosecutor Salah al-Rashidi has an opinion on this issue, stating, "The contents of Article 12 of the law protecting values from impropriety,

which as we pointed out, forbids the Office of the Public Prosecutor from initiating an investigation or filing a case on any of these crimes until a request for that is issued by the socialist prosecutor, is a restriction which conflicts with the nature of these crimes and the requisite rapid investigation and collection of evidence, before it is processed without procedural restrictions delaying the start of the investigation. These crimes could occur in a remote area and could occur at night or by day; in such cases it might be impossible to obtain a request from the socialist prosecutor at the appropriate time.

In a memorandum which he sent to the Ministry of Justice, the public prosecutor demanded that this restriction be lifted so that the public interest could be achieved in a manner giving the Office of the Public Prosecutor the power to take measures to investigate these crimes without having to wait for the issuance of a request to that effect from the socialist public prosecutor.

Not only that, but, in application of Article 26 of the law protecting values from impropriety, if the Office of the Public Prosecutor starts investigating the incidents mentioned in Article Three of the law which we have referred to, following agreement by the socialist public prosecutor, the investigations by the Office of the Public Prosecutor will, of course, not prevent the prosecutor's agency from initiating or continuing the investigation it is conducting, and no effects will be derived from the Office of the Public Prosecutor's filing of the case for one of these incidents when the socialist public prosecutor pursues the investigation and files the case on the investigation with the court of values, or the court of values continues to review the case.

The socialist public prosecutor has given warning on the preceding point, demanding, in his report on the agency's activities in 1981, presented to the People's Assembly, that Article 16 of the law protecting values from impropriety be amended requesting that the Office of the Public Prosecutor be permitted to adopt investigative measures concerning the acts mentioned above before a request is presented on that to the socialist prosecutor.

The prosecutor added, in his justifications for this amendment, that commenting on filing a criminal case for the abovementioned acts in accordance with a request by the socialist prosecutor was aimed at preventing duplication of the two criminal and political responsibilities, that the socialist public prosecutor was responsible, according to the constitution, for protecting interests that had been violated by the commission of these acts and that he had the right to estimate the degree to which it was necessary to file a criminal case on it, or vice versa.

We will content ourselves with presenting a question by Counsellor Salah al-Rashidi, the former public prosecutor, who said "I do not imagine that this situation, which makes the Office of the Public Prosecutor's exercise of its areas of specialization contingent on a request it receives from outside, will last!"

What, however, does political interrogation mean? What basically is a political crime? Prof Ahmad al-Khawajah, the lawyer, answers this question, stating, at the

start of his discussion, that the act could be more than one violation of a law, that these violations could be numerous, and that their characteristics could be diverse. A single act could constitute an administrative violation or a criminal offense, each one could be different from the other, and the crimes might be numerous. There is a stipulation on this matter in the penal code and the subject does not provoke any argument. What does provoke argument, in his opinion, is the talk about the motive for crime through what is called political interrogation in the law protecting values from impropriety. The law carries the stipulation, in Article Three, that "Anyone who does such-and-such will be interrogated politically in accordance with the provisions of this law," and stipulates acts which are for the most part considered crimes in general law. For these crimes, in addition to corporal and financial crimes, general law provides subordinate penalties, including removal from political positions.

The law considers only political motives for crimes and it gives judges discretionary jurisdiction to consider that punishment of a party to the commission of a crime can be severe or light, according to the case.

Two matters of extreme seriousness have resulted from that. First is the creation of an investigative and prosecuting agency in the office of the socialist public prosecutor which engages in activities parallel and similar to those of the Public Prosecutor's Office. Indeed, the members of the indicting agency are all members of the prosecutor's office. The second matter is that we have brought in people who exercise authority over the general law and place them in a different title, namely, political responsibility. That, in his opinion, does not mean more than one of two things in accordance with the law. Either it involves a crime, which is a matter for the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the ordinary judiciary, or it does not constitute a crime, in which case the matter must be left to the voters. One must draw attention to the fact that it is the penal code which lays down these rules. The first volume of the code talks about crimes detrimental to state security from outside the country and the second volume talks about crimes detrimental to state security from within. These are political crimes in nature because they are related to the security of the state and jurisdiction over them lies with the ordinary judiciary. In these two volumes, the penal code protects the rights of the people and the security of society and the political system.

Meanwhile, Counsellor Salah al-Rashidi, the former public prosecutor, demands that the Ministry of Justice effect coordination between the various judiciary bodies and the agency of the socialist public prosecutor so that the proliferation of agencies does not lead to disruptions in the course of justice. Professor Ahmad al-Khawajah, the lawyer, demands that the socialist prosecutor not directly or indirectly take charge of judiciary investigations as long as he is subject to People's Assembly oversight, because that would immediately deprive him of being part of the judiciary system: the independence of the judiciary authorities prevents them from being subordinate to People's Assembly oversight.

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MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DEFENDS AGRARIAN REFORM

Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 11 Sep 82 p 4

[Interview with Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture, by Muhammad 'Abd al-Qaddus: "Hot Interview With Minister of Agriculture on Law Which Changed Face of Agricultural Land Ownership; Farmer as Owner, not Beneficiary; Any Endeavor To Weaken Agrarian Reform Is Catastrophe; Government Is not New Feudalism; Companies Reclaiming Lands Need to Be Organized"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Dr Yusuf Wali, the minister of agriculture, has said to me: Write on my behalf that any endeavor to weaken the agrarian reform will constitute a catastrophe for Egypt. Development of the countryside cannot be realized unless the [Agrarian] Reform Authority is one of the mainstays of this development. The strongest cooperative associations are the reform cooperatives, insofar as organization and link with the crop-growth cycle are concerned.

The minister has also said: I will reveal something that nobody knows, namely that we have discovered that the overwhelming majority of the agrarian reform beneficiaries have not yet acquired ownership of the land. We have begun to deliver the ownership papers to these beneficiaries and to their heirs so that they may become owners for the first time whereas they have been users so far. They will have all the rights of ownership and their burdens will be lightened.

The minister paused for a moment and then added: This, in my opinion, is the biggest celebration of the 30th anniversary of agrarian reform. By the way, I don't believe that the private sector can reclaim vast areas of land. Neither individuals nor private firms can do this. I have found out that the companies reclaiming cultivable lands need to be reorganized because each of them works in a different "world."

Dr Yusuf Wali defined several important points in the interview, saying: There are negative aspects which we acknowledge; there are no new reform laws; what is being said about the farmer coming under the control of the state is untrue; 98 percent of the agricultural activity is in the hands of the private sector and the government is not a new sector [sic].

During the current month of September, 30 years will have passed since the first agrarian reform law was issued in Egypt (on 9 September 1952). Three other laws were issued later (July 1961, January 1963 and July 1969).

Interview With Minister of Agriculture

AKHBAR AL-YAWM's interview with Dr Yusuf Wali, the minister of agriculture, has centered on the positive and negative aspects of agrarian reform. The interview has not been intended for reviewing historical memories but is closely linked with our present.

Dr Wali began the interview by saying that agrarian reform has its vast and undeniably positive points. It is enough that it has changed the social structure of our society, wiped out rural feudalism, freed the farmer from this feudalism and has given him enormous rights.

To put it briefly, agrarian reform has brought Egypt stability. I do not imagine that anybody opposes this law, excluding the big capitalists who were harmed by it and the communists who wish to see all lands owned by the state.

New Organization of Relationship Between Owner and Tenant

[Question] But there are numerous negative aspects in the agrarian reform applications which I wish to discuss with you.

[Answer] I am prepared to discuss everything, on condition that you don't (group together) the issue because the negative aspects cannot be put on the same footing with the positive ones.

[Question] I asked Dr Yusuf Wali about the relationship between the owner and the tenant, a relationship considered by many as one of the most prominent negative aspects of agrarian reform in view of the injustice it inflicts on the owner.

[Answer] Prior to the 1952 revolution, an immense injustice was inflicted on the tenant. After the revolution, the tenant obtained rights close to those of the owner. At present, the state is concerned with studying the stability of the lease relationship between the owner and the tenant on a basis that guarantees justice to both sides. The ministry is now studying these proposals in this regard and will select one of them in order to realize this goal. These proposals are:

Sharecropping tenancy: This means that the owner and the tenant share the crops produced on the cultivable lands after deducting the costs. The flaw with this system is that it does not suit widows and owners living away from the countryside because it enables the tenant to deceive the owner by exaggerating the costs or by stealthily appropriating a part of the crop.

Allowing the owner to set aside a portion of the land: This proposal is being studied for application to farmers living in villages and owning less than three feddans of land.

Allowing the owner to raise the rent of the land to make it compatible with the rising prices.

Dr Yusuf Wali underlines two points, namely: There will be no changes on the basis of the relationship between the owner and the tenant but a mere reorganization of this relationship to realize justice for both sides. Second, the Ministry of Agriculture will not decide exclusively on the new organization. Rather, this organization will be studied at the highest levels.

Why Have Foreigners, But not Egyptians, Been Compensated?

[Question] In January 1963, a law was issued banning foreigners from owning cultivable land. Foreign-owned lands were expropriated and the owners were compensated with nearly 5 million pounds whereas not a single mil was paid to Egyptians subjected to the agrarian reform laws of 1952 and 1961. I view this as a flagrant injustice against such Egyptians. Why doesn't your excellency discuss what compensations can be paid to these people?

[Answer] He answered with a question mingled with surprise and disapproval: What compensations, sir? The forefathers of these people you are talking about seized enormous fiefs as a reward for serving the palace [monarchy] and the British. So how can their descendants be compensated? This does not preclude that a few of them did acquire their lands with their efforts and struggle. As for the compensations paid to the foreigners in 1963, these were political circumstances, shortly before that time our leadership had suffered the setback of Syria's secession and it had entered the Yemen war [shortly] afterward. Consequently, that leadership did not want to open new fronts with the foreign countries to whom the foreign landowners whose lands had been seized belonged. This is why they were compensated.

Dr Yusuf Wali added: When the latest agrarian reform law was issued in 1969, it tried to equate these Egyptians, totaling 5,881 owners, with the foreigners and provided for compensating them. What is surprising is that this provision remained mere ink on paper for more than 10 years until 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shadhili, the chairman of the Public Agrarian Reform Authority, published an advertisement in the papers urging the owners subject to the law to report so that they could collect their compensation. But nobody has showed up.

[Question] It is said that the negative aspects of the agrarian reform include the multiplicity of bylaws issued, amounting to nearly 144 bylaws. Consequently, there have been numerous disputes as a result of the frequent change. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Answer] Yes, this is a negative aspect which I acknowledge. We plan to combine and simplify these laws so that people may understand them. Some of them are so complex that not even the experts understand them. Moreover, we do not intend to issue any new laws in this respect.

There Have Been Attempts To Abolish Reform Authority

[Question] Mr minister, I have a question and I hope you will not be angered by it.

[Answer] (He said with a smile:) I never get angry.

[Question] Is it true that the farmer was liberated with the elimination of feudalism? Hasn't he fallen under the domination of the state which controls what he plants and sets the price of his crops? Don't the agrarian reform officials control the farmers? Hasn't feudalism been replaced by other forms of domination?

[Answer] It is not true that the farmer has fallen under the domination of the state. Ninety-eight percent of the agricultural activity, including ownership of cultivable lands and whatever is on them, is considered private. But if you mean the cooperative marketing system, the agrarian reform has nothing to do with this issue. It is a public system applied to all cultivable lands and all farmers. Moreover, the state intervenes only in setting the prices and in determining the strategic crops pertaining to food supply and to industrial activities, such as cotton and rice. In setting the prices, the state tries ceaselessly not to inflict any injustice on the farmer but rather purchases his crops from him at prices that guarantee him a dignified life. Furthermore, the state exerts efforts constantly to raise the prices to encourage the farmer. Take broad beans as an example. As a result of the rise in the purchase price of this crop, the farmer has turned to cultivating it. For the first time, we will export this crop, whereas we have been importing quantities of it from abroad at a cost of 32 million pounds [annually]. We should also not forget that we have been subsidizing the various aspects of the farmer's life--pesticides, fertilizers, electricity, the loaf of bread he eats and so forth. The fall of the farmer under the domination of the state in the manner you have mentioned and as if it were a new form of feudalism is not at all true. As for the agrarian reform officials' relationship with the farmer, it has undergone several phases:

Immediately following the elimination of feudalism, there was no control whatsoever. Agrarian reform was still young and the desire to make the new plan a success was overwhelming.

Then came the phase in which the army of officials working in agrarian reform multiplied, redtape spread, bureaucracy dominated everything and the reform's domination over the farmers, about which you complain, became evident.

Then there was another phase which came as a reaction to the preceding phase and in which the desire to weaken the agrarian reform emerged. The idea of abolishing the agrarian reform developed under the pretext that the reform's role had ended. Practical steps were taken to crystallize and implement the idea. Several meetings were held for the Ministry of Agriculture, including top-level officials. But, God be thanked, the idea faltered. Write on my behalf: Any endeavor to weaken the agrarian reform will constitute a catastrophe for Egypt. The countryside cannot be developed unless the agrarian reform is

is one of the mainstays in this development. The strongest cooperative associations, insofar as organization and conformity with the growth cycle are concerned, are the agrarian reform associations.

The phase we are undergoing is one in which we are trying to realize cooperation between the farmer and the Agrarian Reform Authority on the basis of equality.

Farmer's Standard Enhanced

[Question] Mr minister, don't you agree with me that agrarian reform has lost its value?

[Answer] (The minister of agriculture answered with surprise and amazement:) How so?

[Question] The agrarian reform lands are the same and have not increased in area whereas the size and number of the members of the family benefiting from agrarian reform have multiplied.

[Answer] (The minister said disapprovingly:) Have fear of God, man! Why don't you look at the other bright picture? Thanks to the revolution, the farmer's son has been able to become a doctor or an engineer and to rise to the highest levels. Even the angle you view is not as dark as you imagine. We are trying to escalate investment in cultivable lands with several means:

1. By encouraging the farmer to cultivate crops with high profit, such as strawberries.
2. By encouraging him to cultivate fruits and vegetables which can creep up wiring such as vines.
3. By enabling the farmer to cultivate a second crop after the main crop. Thanks to the scientific progress which has been made, it is possible for some main crops to mature in a shorter time than before.
4. By encouraging agroindustry in the countryside which will undoubtedly lead to enhancing the farmers' standard of living.

It seems the minister took pity at my searching futilely, in most cases, for a negative aspect and so proceeded to say:

I will mention to you a negative aspect of which you are not aware. Do you know that we have found out that the overwhelming majority of the agrarian reform beneficiaries have not yet taken possession of these lands. We have begun to deliver the ownership papers to them or to their owners so that they may become owners of the agrarian reform lands for the first time whereas they have been mere beneficiaries so far.

Talk of Land Reclamation

[Question] I asked Dr Yusuf Wali about the severe criticism directed at the land reclamation operations carried out by the agrarian reform--criticism concerning the incompetence of some officials supervising the reclamation and the "corruption of others."

[Answer] I cannot answer this question because I was not an official at the time. But come let us talk about our present and future.

Proceeding to speak in this vein, the minister said that he does not believe that the private sector can reclaim vast areas of land. The individual alone cannot perform the task and the private companies do not wish to embark upon it. These companies want quick profits whereas agriculture's rewarding profits come only after a long time. Therefore, land reclamation is fundamentally the duty of the state. I have found out that the firms engaged in land reclamation need to be reorganized. There is no cooperation between them and each operates in a different "world," as the saying goes. Moreover, some of the companies supervise vast areas of land that are beyond their capacity. For example, I cannot imagine a company, namely the Maryut Company, supervising 42,000 feddans. Therefore, all this must be reorganized so that our country's land reclamation may be given a booster shot.

Forty Million Pounds for Agricultural Mechanization

[Question] A final question: 20 years after the emergency of the agrarian reform, we find the farmer "abandoning" his land and seeking other kinds of work. Doesn't this indicate the agrarian reform's failure to realize a dignified life for the farmer?

[Answer] This question is not a proper one. What does the agrarian reform have to do with this issue? Many farmers have left the countryside for a better life and this is their right. Overcoming the shortage in farm labor is embodied in mechanized agriculture. The state has succeeded in using the machine to do work previously done by animals. But it has not succeeded so far in using the machine to perform the tasks performed by man, such as hoeing, planting rice seedlings, picking cotton and so forth. A sum of 40 million pounds has been allocated for the mechanization of agriculture in the next 5 years.

At this point, one of those present at the interview said: "We need 30 million pounds annually, sir."

The minister answered: "Don't be greedy."

We all laughed and so the interview ended.

8494

CSO: 4504/548

PLIGHT OF COUNTRY'S CIVIL SERVANTS UNDERLINED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 714, 6 Sep 82 pp 26-28

[Article by Dr Mahmud Mukhtar Muhammad Mansur: "Civil Service Crisis in Egypt"]

[Text] The negative phenomena which have characterized Egyptian society are not strange to public management experts. They are a natural and expected reaction to the developments which have occurred in the state in the past 10 years.

It is not surprising and it was not unexpected that black market merchants would dominate the commercial markets in Egypt and would trade in the people's food, selling spoiled chicken, cheese that poisons school children and volcanic soil for cement, thus causing houses to collapse on their dwellers, assisted in all this, either positively or negatively, by elements in numerous state agencies represented by the customs at one time, the taxes another, the property ownership transfer agencies, the health inspection agencies and the control units in the various agencies time and time again in the absence of the state's general control agency.

In the mid-1970's, there emerged a new class, motivated by the desire to make a quick profit, which advocated a return to the absolutely liberal economy, even though such a system has vanished even in the most capitalistic countries. Giving priority to the private sector became one of the state's strategic goals in the preceding phase.

Some people motivated by private objectives imagined that this strategy could not be implemented without attacking the public sector and undermining it with all the well-known means that prevailed in the past period, either by slandering the quality of this sector's products or levelling accusations against those in charge of the sector because of their concern for the public money, their abidance by the laws and regulations implementing the state's goals and, finally, their curbing the sector's freedom to raise the prices of its products and services in return for fully opening the door for the private sector's products and services and, consequently, depriving the public sector of its capabilities by encouraging its capable workers to move to the private sector, where the wages and fortunes are doubled, or to emigrate to the oil countries.

Though this issue is not the subject matter of our present discussion, the viewpoints may vary from left to right as to the state's role in the sphere of economic development. To start with and regardless of the economic theories, we believe that Egypt's strategic position on the one hand and the fact that it is a developing country on the other dictate that the state's role in the sphere of economic development be fundamental and comprehensive and that the state fully control the money market. We are in a position that does not permit us to smuggle the country's resources whenever an economic upheaval occurs, especially when the country is exposed to dangers, and many they are as a result of Egypt's geographic position. This has been Egypt's fate since ancient times.

What concerns us in this regard is the most serious danger which the Egyptian society has faced and to which the state's various agencies have been exposed--the danger embodied in the theory that for the private sector to grow and develop, the mainstays of the state itself--mainstays alleged to have grown too strong and to have developed more control than is acceptable--must be toppled.

Thus, the first attack came on the various forms of the state's control units whose duty it is to fight corruption and exploitation. The administrative control was abolished and the other control agencies and units were shackled.

Then--and this is more serious and important and is the specific subject matter of our discussion--there were the efforts to undermine the civil servants who protect the state, implement its laws and safeguard its interests.

A class of business management professors emerged to urge the need for an administrative revolution and administrative reform and ended by attacking the concept of the civil service as a state function in the service of the people [as published] and reducing this concept to a mere wages-for-labor relationship similar to the relationship of a private business owner with his worker.

With the business management concepts derived from the experiences of the major firms in the U.S. and West European societies, control has been gained [presumably by the proponents of Western business concepts] over the most important state agencies and units with new principles of civil service management.

The failure to observe the laws and regulations has become a form of administrative oversight dictated by the phase of administrative revolution, and adherence to these laws and regulations has come to be seen as a form of acquiescence to bureaucratic lethargy and red tape.

Circumventing the laws and the regulations has become a test of resourcefulness and shrewdness whereas direct and serious work is viewed as the result of inaction and inexperience.

The media hype regarding the sluggish [nature of] activities prevailing in the state agencies has become the predominant characteristic.

The exchange of favors between the agency chiefs has become an acknowledged and accepted principle and the exchange of favors between the public and private [sectors] is occurring shamelessly.

It is no surprise that intensive training programs have increased and multiplied in the past 5 years to transmit the private sector's business management concepts to the governmental sector officials. The more these training programs have grown, the more intensive the problems of management in the government apparatus have become.

We don't know what kind of administrative development [is planned] for which a sum of 800,000 pounds will be added to the administrative training programs' budget. Is it for development in accordance with these concepts? And who are the real beneficiaries from these programs, considering that it is well-known that the lectures given in these programs are confined to a limited number of people who monopolize them for their own objectives. Wouldn't it have been better to evaluate the outcome of this training in the past 10 years so that we may be able to determine the yield?

Employees in the civil service have been subjected to unjust campaigns launched against them by the various media.

They have been accused of being negative and of not performing their duty.

They have been accused of failure in their capacity as the executors of the laws and regulations.

They have been accused of indifference.

And finally, and this is the worst and bitterest of all, they have been accused of not deserving their wages because they are unproductive. The civil servant has turned into the object of biting ridicule and of the artistic innovation of caricaturists. The civil servant has disappeared from sight, being ashamed of his image and, his work, as if he were a soldier who has suffered a defeat or a setback. The difference in a military defeat or setback is that it occurs suddenly and the reaction to it is sudden whereas what has happened to the civil servant has been premeditated and intended to defeat him gradually so that he may not be able to rise or fight the dangers to which he is exposed.

In the past 10 years, the laws and regulations have been amended in a manner that has undermined the basic guarantees which the public servant must enjoy in his capacity as representative of the public authority. His leaders, especially the middle-level leaders, have been deprived of the powers and prerogatives that enable them to perform their owkr in an ideal manner and all these powers and prerogatives have been concentrated in the hands of the minister concerned, except in rare cases.

The civil servants' salaries have dwindled in light of the high cost of living rates in the so-called era of prosperity. Whereas the mobilization and statistics agencies have estimated the change in the cost of living in the period from 1975-81 at annual rates ranging from 8.9 percent as a minimum to 20.7 percent as a maximum, these rates ranged from 2 percent as a minimum to 12.6 percent as a maximum in the 1960's. These estimates are the subject of examination by numerous international circles. In 1980-81, the Mobilization and Statistics Agency estimated the rise in the cost of living at 8.9 percent annually whereas the UN agencies estimated this rise in Egypt at 28 percent. This means that the salaries of the civil servants have been losing their value gradually but at high rates, since 1975. This decline dictated the so-called periodic annual allowance which is granted under certain legal conditions and ranges for the top grades--undersecretary--from 4.8 percent at the bottom of the grade to 3.4 percent at the top of the grade and from 4 percent at the bottom of grade six to 2.6 percent at the top of the grade.

At the same time and while the salaries of the civil servants are declining in value year after year, the salaries of workers in the private and joint sectors are rising constantly.

Whereas the top salaries in the joint sector--banks--range from 6,000-8,000 pounds or dollars monthly, the salary of a deputy minister and of first undersecretary is 206.916 pounds per month, in addition to a 152-pound representation allowance, i.e., a total of 331.916 [sic] pounds as a fixed monthly salary.

Thus, the difference between a top salary in the joint sector and a similar salary in the governmental sector ranges from 18-24 times. This is despite the difference in the enormous responsibilities, with the responsibilities of the first type of job confined to the activities of a bank or a bank branch and the responsibilities of the second type including all the burdens and tasks assigned by the state.

This is in addition to what has become known as contempt for the Egyptian currency, considering that the joint sector and a number of the private sector [firms] pay the salaries of their workers in dollars so that these salaries may not be exposed to the inflationary changes experienced by the Egyptian pound.

It suffices to consult the studies prepared by the Middle East Advisory Group which are issued every six months in order to appreciate the wide gap between the wages of both private sector workers and governmental sector workers. Add to this the constant annual fluctuation in the wages and salaries of the joint and private sectors--an increase calculated in accordance with the high estimates of the cost of living and not in accordance with the figures of the Mobilization and Statistics [Agency].

Perhaps the strangest outcome of these conditions is to be observed is the wage scale of the government sector. The lowest salaries of workers in the lower grades--the "minimum wages" set by the state for both the governmental and private sectors--have been amended whereas the wages of civil servants in

other grades have remained unchanged. This action has led to the point where the ratio of minimum wages to maximum wages in the government wage scale currently in effect is 1:3.4 even if we assume that the salaries of the lower grades remain unchanged. The laws currently in effect have set the salary for the lowest level of grade six (beginning appointment for those with no college qualifications) at 684 pounds [annually] whereas they set the salary for the top level of the grade of undersecretary at 2,374 pounds. This is a level attained only by a limited number of civil servants with top qualifications. We know of no other country in the world where the civil service system has reached the same ratio as in Egypt insofar as bottom and top civil service salaries are concerned.

Despite the various recommendations issued by the various civil service conferences held at the United Nations and despite the necessity and importance of keeping the wages of the private sector workers and the governmental sector workers close to each other--a closeness established by the civil service systems of the advanced countries--the astronomical differences recorded in the wages of the private sector workers and the civil servants in Egypt are unprecedented in any country in the world, not even in the most backward country. While land and real estate prices have risen scores of times and whereas land speculation and the housing business have become the path toward quick wealth, it has become impossible for a government employee to get decent housing in the light of the current laws governing property ownership transfer, even if this employee saves all that he earns from the government throughout his life as a civil servant.

Therefore, it is not surprising that the prevalent pattern--the pattern described as successful--is that of devoting efforts to fulfill private individual interests. Thus, under the impact of inflation and of the hardship of life, the loyalty of the workers in the government apparatus has turned from loyalty to the state and the public interest to loyalty to the new opportunistic class.

A well-known phenomenon has emerged in the civil service society--a phenomenon whereby it has become an acceptable fact for the civil servant to combine his job in the government with work in the private sector, even if this work is in conflict with the public interest or affects his government job negatively. This phenomenon is known to the civil service experts as the corruption and collapse of the civil service concept.

Now to avoid the mistakes, though it behooves us to point out that it is easy to demolish and destroy and difficult to build and repair, it is necessary that the following be made clear from the outset:

The realization of any degree of economic and social development requires the presence of a capable administrative system that can tie the state's plans with the means to implement them under the circumstances and challenges of the local society and in light of the international changes.

The civil servant and worker are the main axis of this system. To the extent that fair and stable laws providing the civil servant with the necessary degree of security and a decent livelihood within the existing system are secured,

only then will success be realized for the state's development goals, and vice versa.

The matter requires re-establishing the bases and concepts of the civil servant job which are founded on the following:

1. Developing the spirit of loyalty to the state and to the public interest so that no hint of an action favoring the private interest over the public interest may be permitted and so that it may be perfectly clear to the civil servants that the civil service is not a place for self-aggrandizement.

This requires re-examination of the systems and policies of administrative training and managerial training. What use are the latest and most complex weapons in the hands of an army if the spirit of sacrifice and martyrdom is absent? Isn't the U.S. experience in Vietnam a lesson from which one can learn?

What use are the latest U.S. theories in business management and what use is reiterating these theories to government officials when these officials are in the direst need to regain [the public's] confidence in themselves and in their administrative apparatus?

2. Scientific streamlining in the management of personnel affairs and civil service affairs, not by following the business management concepts currently practiced, but by emphasizing the status of the civil service so that it may truly be a state function in the service of the people. This should be done by:

Putting the right civil servant in the right job according to his specialization and his cadre through the sound scientific categorization of jobs in accordance with the decision issued by the ministerial committee of the National Action Program on 10 January 1971--a decision obstructed by the Central Organization and Management Agency--and not in accordance with the current job categorization system which is both aimless and meaningless.

3. Reconsideration of the status of the civil servant in his capacity as the representative of the state and of the public authority. This should be done by:

The proper selection of the civil servants so that public service jobs may not be (a boundless sphere of employment). The system of temporaries or temporary employment may be adopted so as to continue the state's appointment of [college] graduates, provided that the permanent employment is not made until after the lapse of a number of years during which the necessary training is actually provided according to the requirements of the civil service job. The permanent appointment should also be made only after making sure of the appointees' concern for the public interest and after assuring the appointee of a job in his field of specialization and his profession in accordance with the international standards of scientific job classification.

Re-examination of the conditions of the civil servants generally in comparison to their counterparts in the private and joint sectors, especially in terms of

wages, benefits and the extent of the suitability of the workplace in which the civil servant performs his duties and work so as to turn it into a place which helps the employee perform his work well and gain the respect he merits. Finally, the methods and systems of work should be streamlined and the equipment and instruments that have become widespread in the joint and private sector and which save time and assure the worker the proper performance of his work should be used.

4. Laying the emphasis on establishing the principles of legitimacy by eliminating the phenomenon of indifference to the laws and regulations and the failure to observe and implement them within the prescribed limits. Special emphasis should be placed on the phenomenon of the senior employees' allegations of inactivity [on the part of superiors], heavy-handedness, or administrative oversight which occurs through the violation or circumvention of the laws.

These are the most important duties of the control agencies of the various countries of the world. In France, someone who violates the laws in force is referred to the Government Auditing Office directly and the proper penalty is meted out to him without the need for permission from the higher authorities. Lamped Zian's system in the Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon countries ensures the establishment of the principles of legitimacy, which is the primary domain of the laws setting up these agencies. The same applies to the Brocoranot system in the socialist countries.

In Egypt, this goal has been eliminated from the tasks of the administrative control agency. Consequently, the phenomenon of arresting [sic] and disregarding the laws and regulations has become widespread.

Finally, if economic and social development has its importance in society, then it is unimaginable that this development can be realized without re-examining the state agencies' system of work by way of the civil servants and workers through whom the state realizes its goals of progress and advancement.

8494

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ID CARDS PROLIFERATE IN EGYPT

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Aug 82 p 10

[Article by Sana' Hamid: "Everything Has A Card! Citizen Carries Four Cards- - And More to Come!"]

[Text] Our daily lives, yours and mine, have turned into a group of cards of various names: an identity card, a family card, a supply card, a group card, a uniform card, etc. New card projects will swell your pockets with papers, for they are now considering a health card, a housing card, an education card, and a professional card, with more to come!!

Experts say that if these cards continue to proliferate at their present rate, each citizen will need a special corner in his apartment for storage and a suitcase for his cards if he wants to run an errand!

In the supply card unit of the Ministry of Supply, as of the end of last January, 8,135,346 cards were issued to Egyptian families and citizens. As for group cards, 2,236,135 were issued, listing 5,567 group and sectarian associations in Cairo and the governorates. There are also 1,780,676 cards for family and household consumer collectives.

The Ministry of Supply also issued 3.5 million people's uniform cards as part of the project for workers in the government and public sector.

According to Sayyid al-Misri, first undersecretary of the ministry, the project began with 1 million cards in January 1981 and grew to 3.5 million in a year and a half. Each agency issues the cards to its workers.

Assimilation Is Difficult

It is possible to merge the cards issued by the Ministry of Supply (the supply card, the people's uniform card, and the group and sectarian cards) into one big card for the citizens?!

Engineer Muhammad Fakhri 'Abd-al-Hamid, director of the department of cards in the Ministry of Supply said: "It would be difficult, for a number of reasons. Supply cards are universal and are issued to all groups. On the contrary, the people's uniform card is specific, held only by government and public sector employees.

If it were converted to a page in the supply card, that would affect 5 million families who carry supply cards but are not entitled to uniforms.

"To be precise, the uniform cards and the group and sectarian cards are a kind of privilege for specific groups, and putting them in the supply card would be 'consumer provocation' for the rest of the groups which do not have that privilege."

The Ministry of the Interior, according to the most recent statistics, issued 30 million identity and family cards.

Health Cards

Many cards are still in the study stage. The Ministry of Health has begun a project to develop and equip outpatient clinics and child and maternity care centers at a cost of \$99 million. Its first stages will be completed next year, and the whole project will be completed in 1986.

Dr Nabhat Fu'ad, supervisor of the project and director of the Center for the Development of a Civilized Environment, proposed that a "health card" be prepared for each citizen using the project. There would be two copies of the card, one for the citizen and the second to be kept by the center. Both copies would record the dates of the patient's visits to the center, the diagnosis, treatment, and progress; that is, they would be a complete file for the patient.

Educational Card

A discussion at the Board of Graduates of Colleges of Education produced a proposal to issue an "education card" to be held by the student from the first stage of education, elementary education. The teacher would list all information pertaining to the student, including his class ranking, activities, hobbies, and his intellectual, mental, and physical preparedness, so that he would be properly placed after this stage in the type of education suitable to his abilities and his interests.

Housing Card

"A housing card for each citizen" is the proposal presented by Salamah Abu Zayd, general director in the Ministry of Reconstruction.

According to him, the solution may be summarized in two steps. The first is to have the state intensify its efforts to build housing units while lowering their cost as much as possible. The second is to issue a housing card for each citizen.

Salamah Abu Zayd summarized the process for issuing this card as follows:

Setting up registration offices in each quarter in Cairo and the governorates to list the housing units in that district.

Opening a file for each housing unit including the name of the owner, the number of the listing for the property, the number of its housing units, its occupants, and the numbers of their identity and family cards.

Issuing a card for each citizen, and forbidding any owner to lease or transfer title to any housing unit owned by him without requiring this card.

Is the phenomenon of the increasing number of the "multiplicity of cards" to be carried by each citizen a healthy one? Is it a temporary or permanent phenomenon? Will each one of us be turned into a massive mound of papers?!

We posed these questions to three people who are experts in their fields, and we received different answers.

Zaynab Rashid, professor of history in the College of Arts at 'Ayn Shams, says that it is a healthy phenomenon.

Although its appearance is considered a result of deteriorating economic conditions, it is considered part of a trend toward ensuring fair distribution, and it is a health beginning to getting out of the crisis.

In reply to the same questions, Dr Ahmad Jami', professor of economics and dean of the College of Law of 'Ayn Shams, says: "A rationing system is accepted whenever any state faces scarcity of supply. To confront demand for goods and services, the state must intervene through cards, setting a certain quantity of goods and services for the individual in a specific time period.

"Thus, cards are a phenomenon which spreads in the aftermath of wars, famine, and severe economic crises. This is a temporary phenomenon which will end when its causes end. Therefore, it is not worthwhile to comment or take a position on it now.

"What should be investigated and opposed is a situation where places of employment are turning into group consumer societies, and employees' time is wasted in talking about which commodities are available or not available and in reserving and receiving these goods. Then you see these employees as they are leaving a public office, a respected bank or a professional society with a carton of eggs or a package of frozen meat!!"

Restriction of Freedom

Dr Sayyid 'Uways, consultant for the National Center for Social and Criminal Research, has another opinion. He says: "Man is a creature of freedom, and cards are a type of restriction of freedom. The more they increase, the more that indicates an increase in the restrictions!!

"These cards may be needed, but on the condition that the citizens participate in imposing them on themselves, through freedom of opinion and opposite opinion.

"Because the present cards were imposed and are increasing in number, cases of 'escaping' from these restrictions have appeared in the form of several deviations, such as forging cards, purchasing more than one card for allocations, and the growing phenomena of fraud and greed, which are among the most dangerous symptoms which threaten our society.

"We must recognize in the end that, just as it is difficult to change the public behavior of the individual by increasing the number of laws imposed on him, it is also difficult to change his consumer behavior by increasing the number of cards, even if they number 100!!"

7587

CSO: 4504/492

MONTAZERI: TERRORIST GROUPS ONLY PRETEND TO BACK POOR

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] Tehran--The men, women and children who were being butchered by the MKO and FKO splinter groups in bombings are the very proletariat whose cause these criminal groups pretend to espouse, Ayatollah Montazeri the prominent leader and jurisprudent said yesterday.

Ayatollah Montazeri castigated in the severest terms the brutal massacres of innocent people of the city in Friday night's massive bomb explosion at the city center proximity to Imam Khomeini Square which is also the site of the telecommunications center of the capital.

He said that the bomb was placed to explode in this busy city area where ordinary city residents came in for their normal chores, in the vicinity of cheap inns where weary travellers had come to rest and in close proximity to residential quarters of the deprived of the city.

He pointed out that it was clearly the work of the internal lackeys of the Great Satan (the UN) adding that it showed a clear attempt to minimize the victories of the Islamic forces at the fronts. "Whenever our young fighters are victorious at the fronts and the nation is jubilant, then these murderous villains commit crimes to neutralize the effect of these victories," he said.

Ayatollah Montazeri asked whether these lackeys of imperialism who pretend to be of the proletariat were really genuine about their claims to be working for the people. "By your actions, you have proved that you lack faith. But do you even lack an iota of compassion and humanity?" he asked of these misled youth groups.

He then said that a number of misled youths who support these criminal groups even hailed from families with a religious background. "If your leaders resort to such diabolic acts to realize their dreams and grab power, why do you young people of 16 and 17 from religious families forsake all feelings of compassion, feelings of humanity and your religion to support them?" Ayatollah Montazeri asked.

In conclusion Ayatollah Montazeri warned these "negligent youth" and prayed for their guidance in the right path.

Meanwhile, the Theological College of Qom issued a statement deploring the barbarous acts of terror at Naser Khosrow Avenue, where the bomb exploded Friday night, and described it as a "wanton act of sheer cruelty and barbarity." It was simply an act of retaliation for the great successes of the Islamic forces and aimed to weaken the revolutionary spirit of the Islamic forces, the statement said.

CSO: 4600/34

KHAMENEI DEPLORES ISLAMIC RULERS' SILENCE ON SUMMIT CALL

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Seyyed Ali Khamenei yesterday urged an immediate Islamic Summit Conference in Tehran or any other Moslem state which had not shown open hostility against the Islamic Republic.

In a message to the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization, the president stressed that the issue of Palestine belonged to the whole Islamic world and that it was a historical responsibility which should be undertaken by all members of the Islamic Conference Organization.

President Khamenei deplored lack of any appropriate reaction by heads of Islamic countries, especially those which were claiming to support Palestinian aspirations, towards brutal Zionist action in Lebanon. He expressed anxiety that such a state of indifference would be interpreted as a sign of weakness, compromise or treason of heads of Islamic countries and would encourage the usurper enemy and its inevita-

ble supporter - the United States - to repeat such acts.

The message noted that the Islamic Republic in the course of the official annexation of Golan Heights to occupied lands, had predicted such rudeness from the Zionist enemy which was even harsher than what was expected due to the lack of general attention to the expansionist and brutal Zionist plans.

The savage massacre of innocent Moslems had no precedent during the past decades, the message read adding that Palestinians and Lebanese Moslems were targets of joint conspiracies of U.S. imperialism and Zionism with the collaboration of some Arab states.

Palestinian Moslems, the message added, were sent far from their bases with the plots of these elements, and Moslem masses, with no one to defend them militarily or politically, were attacked savagely by forces which avenged their two-month-old defeat behind the gates of West Beirut.

CSO: 4600/34

SUDANESE, NORTH YEMEN ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF IRAQ REPORTED

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) -- The Sudanese government announced yesterday it is prepared to send troops to "sisterly Iraq" following Iran's latest offensive against the Arab country.

The announcement was made by the official Sudan news agency (SUNA) following a meeting between President Gaafar Nimeiri and his aides.

His commanders discussed preparing and equipping the required forces to support sisterly Iraq following the attacks on its territories by the Iranian forces."

The dispatch made no mention of the number of type of troops Sudan was prepared to send nor when they might be dispatched. It also gave no indication whether Iraq had been consulted.

However, SUNA said Sudan's Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Hashem Osman, had met with Iraq's charge d'affaires in Khartoum for a review of the situation on the battlefield.

SUNA said the decision was in line with a resolution of last month's Arab Summit in Fez, Morocco, which affirmed that any aggression against an Arab country was considered attack against all of them.

Sudan would become the second Arab League member to send troops to help Iraq in the two-year war with Iran. Jordan's King Hussein and Egypt, with whom Sudan maintains close relations, has supported Iraq with military supplies.

Meanwhile, President Ali Abdollah Saleh of North Yemen appealed to all Arab heads of state to honor the commitments they pledged through a resolution at last month's Arab Summit in Fez.

According to reports some Arab leaders Saturday night contacted Saddam of Iraq by telephone in order to learn of the latest developments on the war fronts. They were North Yemen President, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Morocco's King Hassan.

2. Securing storage capacity for the essential food commodities sufficient for the kingdom's needs for at least 8 months.

To realize this goal, the ministry built silos to store grains, such as corn and wheat for which the storage capacity is 100,000 tons. To raise the grains storage capacity at rates compatible with the food consumption and fodder industry needs and in accordance with the food security policy, the ministry is currently exerting efforts to enlarge these silos and to build new ones so as to bring the total grain storage capacity in Jordan to 330,000 tons. The costs of these projects are estimated at 15.5 million dinars.

In this respect, the ministry is also building a cold storage facility to keep fruits, vegetables and eggs in good condition for a long time in order to make sure that the markets are supplied regularly according to need, or for the purpose of exporting. This central facility's storage capacity will amount to 6,000 tons, of which 5,000 tons can be turned into a freezer for storing frozen meats. The total costs of this project are estimated at 2.35 million dinars.

On the other hand, the ministry has built 2 refrigerators, 1 in Al-Juwaydah and the other in Al-'Aqabah, with a storage capacity of 1,500 tons each. The ministry has further built numerous modern and insulated storehouses in the various parts of the kingdom with a storage capacity of 64,000 tons of various packaged and canned food supplies.

3. Establishing production projects with the purpose of dispensing importing whenever possible.

To realize this goal, the ministry has built a modern automatic flour mill with a daily capacity of 400 tons, with the capability to increase it to 650 tons daily. This mill, with the wheat supplied to it by the grain silos, will make it possible to dispense with storing flour for long periods, thus insuring that fresh flour is constantly available in the markets and helping to reduce this commodities' imports from abroad. The cost of the project, along with the warehouses, the laboratory and the buildings attached to it, has amounted to nearly 5.8 million dinars.

The ministry is also exerting efforts by building a fodder plant with a 20-30 ton per hour capacity, to insure the supply of fodder in adequate quantities and good quality compatible with high food standards, to help balance fodder prices in the local market and to contribute to developing the livestock industry, especially poultry, cattle and sheep. This project's costs are estimated at nearly 3.5 million dinars. To secure the feed concentrates necessary for the fodder industry, a plant for the production of feed concentrates with an annual capacity of 30,000 tons will be built. The costs of constructing this project are estimated at 2 million dinars.

One of the important projects which the ministry is determined to build as soon as possible out of its deep faith in this project and because it is essential for the kingdom's citizens, is the automatic bakeries project which seeks to produce good-quality and pure bread to make up for the small bakeries'

IRAN

BRIEFS

SAUDI APPEAL--Jidda, Saudi Arabia (AP)--Saudi Arabia appealed yesterday to Iraq and Iran to bring their two-year-old war to an immediate end and resort to negotiations for peace, the royal court announced. Expressing "deep sorrow" over the latest Iran offensive against Iraq, the Saudi government urged the warring countries to "stop this war which squanders the potentials of the region and precipitates enormous losses in lives and property." The royal court statement underscored Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's desire to end the war. It asked the Tehran government to respond favorably to Hussein's desire. The statement urged the Islamic mediation committee to resume its efforts for ending that war. It added that Saudi Arabia was making the appeal in its capacity as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, of which Iraq and Iran are members. [Text] [Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 82 p 1]

CSO: 4600/34

MINISTRY EFFORTS FOR SECURE FOOD SUPPLY UNDERLINED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Aug 82 p 15

[Article by Dr Muhammad Sulayman 'Abd al-Hamid Zaytun: "Reality of Food Industries and Role of Ministry of Supply in Realizing Jordan's Food Security"]

[Excerpts] Jordan and Food Security Theory:

Despite the agricultural sector's strategic importance in the production sectors of the national economy and in realizing the secure food supply theory, the relative contribution of this sector to the national income is declining and receding. The agricultural sector has begun to occupy a low place among the other sectors, especially in recent years.

Chart No 1

Relative Importance of Economic Sectors in Gross Local Production--Source: 1981-85 Economic and Social Development Plan

<u>Sector</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1985 (Plan)</u>
Agriculture	9.6	8.5	7.2
Industry and Mining	17.4	21.8	29.3
Electricity and Water	1.1	1.1	1.6
Construction	<u>6.0</u>	<u>7.4</u>	<u>7.9</u>
Commodity Production Sectors Total	34.1	38.8	46.0

As evident from the above chart, the high growth rates in industry and construction have compensated for the low growth rate in agriculture. Consequently, the gross local production has realized high growth rates in the periods noted, under the canopy of a relatively slight rise in the general level of prices. This has helped realize a high growth in the average individual real income.

The rapid development resulting from the economic development in Jordan led to organizing the economic sectors in a manner so that the individual income and wages have become a basic criterion to compare with the costs of living which began to rise as a result of rising international prices and of more development. These two main factors have been coupled with an increased demand for skilled labor at home and with the luring of large numbers of such skilled labor to neighboring countries rich with oil resources. This has led to still greater rise in wages and prices and to efforts to import cheap foreign labor (in 1981, the number of Arab and foreign workers in Jordan exceeded 95,000).

This situation which is emerging as a basic phenomenon in the center of the economic structure of the Kingdom of Jordan has necessitated the emergency of the Ministry of Supply. The Ministry of Supply is one of the new ministries which has been able within a few years to deal with many of the issues concerning the food supply and to secure for citizens the main foodstuffs in sufficient quantities and at reasonable prices.

To realize this goal, the ministry has proceeded within the framework of a balanced equation consisting of three main elements, namely:

1. Confining the importation of the main food commodities, such as wheat, flour, sugar, rice, edible oil and all kinds of white, red, fresh, refrigerated and frozen meats (see chart No 2), to the ministry. This is in addition to other commodities, such as milk and maize, which the ministry imports side by side with the private sector so as to prevent any sudden shortages in these commodities and to reduce their prices.

<u>Food Commodity</u>	<u>1979</u>		<u>1980</u>		<u>1981</u>	
	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Value</u>
Red Meats (Fresh)	10,000	30.1	18,000	58.5	19,000	65.9
White Meats (Poultry)	1,300	5.6	4,000	6.1	12,370	17.8
Fish	2,271	2.6	1,750	1.1	2,000	2.3
Sugar	87,000	24.3	117,500	88.1	97,000	50.8
Wheat	189,000	34.6	140,000	31.0	153,000	30.2
Rice	24,350	10.9	30,000	15.8	50,700	29.6
Flour	49,635	10.6	75,000	18.6	91,500	26.3
Maize	6,500	1.2	11,000	2.2	12,000	2.2
Milk (Cartons)	1,380	1.03	215,850	5.4	165,000	4.1
Barley	52,500	9.1	-	-	30,000	6.8
Lentils	800	0.3	-	-	3,000	1.8
Olive Oil	1,134	2.3	1,500	3.1	500	1.1

Despite the enormous international inflation which caused the prices of some of these commodities to rise by 100-300 percent within just 2 years, the ministry was able to keep the essential commodities at reasonable prices.

The ministry has also been able to supply the local market with imported fresh and frozen meats at prices below the international prices, through subsidy.

QOTBZADEH'S ACCOMPLICES GO BEFORE FIRING SQUAD

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Another two co-conspirators of former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh were sentenced to death and went before a firing squad Wednesday night following a verdict issued by the Army Revolutionary Tribunal.

Mehdi Mahdavi a pseudo-clergyman and Colonel Qasem Hosseini a former Army Prosecutor were executed on charges of participating in a plot to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The verdict said that Mehdi Mahdavi had toured abroad, as Qotbzadeh's envoy, to collect money and information and made contacts with certain Saudi Arabian officials. He had also informed Kazem Shariatmadari's of the plot and, as he himself confessed, had received Shariatmadari's agreement.

Colonel Hussein, a former army prosecutor, had introduced himself to Qotbzadeh as the representative of a group opposing the Islamic Revolution. He had received money from Qotbzadeh to implement his plans.

Meanwhile, the Army Revolutionary Tribunal issued verdicts on seven others also involved in the plot to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

Hussein Shaveisi and Darab Foruzan both were sentenced to life imprisonment for preparing a map of Imam Khomeini's residence and earmarking nearby houses for destruction.

Mehdi Zare, Colonel Javad Najafi, retired Colonel Mahmoud Zarrin-Khameh, Pseudo-clergyman Javad Manaqebi Navaei, and Shahpour Pajouhandeh each received 15 years, 10 years, 10 years, eight years and two years imprisonment respectively.

The tribunal announced here Thursday that files of three other Qotbzadeh co-conspirators, Masoud Riazi, Abdolreza Hejazi, and Ahmad Abbasi (Kazem Shariatmadari's son-in-law) have been handed over to justice court due to being incomplete.

Sadeq Qotbzadeh, who masterminded the plot to overthrow the Islamic Republic, was sentenced to death by the Army Revolutionary Tribunal and was executed by firing squad on Sept. 15, 1982.

shortage in the production--a shortage caused by the unavailability of adequate labor--through the construction of five automatic bakeries in various parts of the kingdom, each with a capacity compatible with the population density [in the area concerned]. The costs of this projects are estimated at 2.4 million dinars. The second important project which seeks to establish marketing services for poultry breeders is the project to build a modern automatic poultry abattoir reflecting the most advanced accomplishments realized by modern science in this sphere and with a production capacity of 40 tons of slaughtered chickens daily. Refrigeration and deep-freeze store-houses, a packaging plant and a plant to dehydrate the leftovers of slaughtered chickens and process them into an animal protein that can be used as poultry feed will also be attached to the abattoir. These costs are estimated at 2 million dinars.

Chart No 3

Summary of Costs of Major Projects To Be Built by Ministry of Supply in 1981-85 Period (in 1,000 dinars)

<u>Project</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>Total</u>
Flour Mill	1,200	700	-	-	-	1,900
Refrigerated Warehouses	2,050	230	-	-	-	2,280
Grain Silo Expansion	9,000	5,000	1,500	-	-	15,500
Fodder Plant	150	1,250	1,700	400	-	3,500
Feed Concentrates	-	200	800	1,000	-	2,000
Automatic Bakeries	250	300	350	400	500	1,800
Freezers	-	250	500	250	-	1,000
Warehouses	100	300	200	-	-	600
Poultry Abottair	-	500	1,000	500	-	2,000
Grand Total	12,750	8,730	6,050	2,550	500	30,580

It is necessary to raise agricultural production by expanding the cultivated area or by improving and developing the means of production and encouraging the establishment of various kinds of food industry in order to eliminate the problems of food shortage and malnutrition. Moreover, efforts to develop a food program that insures the country of the ability to solve its food problems have become one of the fundamental issues on which any nation's security and independence rely. The Ministry of Supply strives ceaselessly to raise the average annual per capita consumption of essential foods by establishing and encouraging the construction of the various food industries. The ministry also fully supervises the efforts to make up for shortages and to secure the main food elements to the citizens through foreign importation from various sources or through storage of the local surplus.

Despite the constant population growth and the drop in the agricultural production level, there is an increase in the average individual consumption of the essential foods with a high protein content (chart No 4) which is the main ingredient in protecting the citizen against malnutrition.

Chart No 4

Annual Per Capita Consumption Rate and Total Consumption of Essential Foods in Jordan Until 1981

<u>Foodstuff</u>	<u>Per Capita Consumption Rate From 1971-74 (In Kilograms)</u>	<u>Per Capita Consumption Rate From 1975-78 (In Kilograms)</u>	<u>Total Consumption in 1979 (In Kilograms)</u>	<u>Total Consumption in 1980 (In Kilograms)</u>
Red Meats	3.62	7.3	16,297	16,855
Frozen Meats	0.005	0.032	71	72
Fish	1.5	2.000	4,465	4,618
Chickens	11.0	12.000	26,791	27,707
Eggs (by egg)	95.0 eggs	112.00 eggs	250 million eggs	259 million eggs
Fat	4.6	5.000	11,163	11,545
Sugar	22.0	22.000	49,116	50,797
Rice	11.0	11.000	24,558	25,398
Flour	112.0	112.000	250,044	258,600
Milk	1.31	3.000	6,698	6,926
Coffee	0.744	1.000	1,661	1,718
Tea	1.500	1.500	3,349	3,463
Lentils	2.500	2.500	5,581	5,772

8494

CSO: 4404/699

BRIEFS

APPROVAL OF REAGAN'S PLAN--The Jordanian information media have expressed considerable interest in U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposals. Political observers in Amman have noticed that the Jordanian papers have commented in detail on what they call the positive points in the U.S. President's plan while the Jordanian radio and television have focused on highlighting the Arab positive reactions and the Israeli absolute rejection of the plan. The political observers have interpreted this Jordanian media emphasis, which has been coupled with political interest, on President Reagan's plan as an expression of Jordan's approval of the plan even though the Jordanian capital has not declared its final position toward the U.S. proposals. Informed sources in Amman have told AL-MUSTAQBAL that King Husayn, the Jordanian monarch, has decided, despite his awareness of the positive aspects of President Reagan's plan, not to announce Jordan's acceptance of the positive provisions of the plan until after ascertaining the Arab leaders' opinion during the holding of the Arab summit in Fex. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi monarch, supported King Husayn's view during the latter's visit to Jiddah last Wednesday. It is worth noting here that King Husayn last week sent a message to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, delivered by Marwan al-Qasim, the Jordanian minister of foreign affairs, and Ahmad al-Lawzi, the chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, in which he assured 'Arafat that Jordan would not take a position toward the U.S. proposals before the summit meeting at Fez, and this is what has actually happened. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 290, 11 Sep 82 p 15] 8494

CSO: 4404/699

MAURITANIA

CUBAN DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

LD100540 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Oct 82

[Text] A Cuban delegation led by Mr Manuel [name indistinct], deputy minister of foreign trade, today concluded a five-day visit to our country. The Cuban delegation left the capital this morning. It was seen off at the airport by Lt Col Diop Moustapha, member of the Military Committee of National Salvation and minister of trade and industry, and by the members of an accompanying delegation.

This morning the two delegations held a final meeting during which there was a review of the most important results of the talks and contacts made with Mauritanian officials as well as a discussion about the possibilities of cooperation between the two countries.

A press communique has been issued after the visit recording all these points. The communique says that the Cuban delegation was received by Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Hadala, chairman [title as heard] of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state. Talks held during the meeting covered ways of strengthening the relations of cooperation between the two countries.

The communique adds that the working session held by the two delegations underlined the need for encouraging cooperation between Mauritania and Cuba in the cultural, scientific, technical, economic and commercial domains.

The heads of the two delegations signed a general agreement for cooperation between the two countries in the cultural, technical, scientific and economic fields as well as a trade agreement.

On the other hand, the two sides noted the identity of their viewpoints concerning the need to ensure a fair international economic order, to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of peoples and to put a permanent end to the aggressions of imperialism and its followers against states striving to build a better future like Mauritania and Cuba. In particular, the two sides expressed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO in its confrontation with the savage Zionist aggressions, as well as their backing for the Saharan people for the liberation of their homeland.

In conclusion, the Cuban delegation thanked Mauritania for the warm hospitality and welcome and expressed admiration with the honorable efforts exerted by our country towards its economic and social development.

RESULTS OF FES SUMMIT ASSESSED

LD122316 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1844 GMT 12 Oct 82

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Oct (SPA)--Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Boucetta said that the Fes summit Arab delegation will hold a meeting in Rabat to agree on a working plan and on sharing work before the delegation's tour of a number of countries.

In a statement to tomorrow's AL-YAMAMAH, the Moroccan minister paid tribute to the Fes summit results, pointing out that they were very useful for the unification of Arab ranks and as a declaration of an Arab working plan.

He hopes that the committee will soon help to unify Arab ranks with a positive and specific plan which will classify the situation to world public opinion and also to us as an Arab nation so that we know the road we are to take to put an end to the setbacks and attacks to which the Arab nation has been exposed and also to stop the Zionist aggression against the Arab people and Arab lands. He said that there is hope of unifying the Arab ranks and this will be the basic element in coordinating all circumstances and all international forces so as to materialize the Arab plan.

The Moroccan foreign minister pointed out that President Reagan's Mideast plan contains a positive stance. He said that there are some points which the plan should have clarified more and on which it should have adopted a more positive attitude.

Referring to the Israeli entity's rejection of the Arab peace plan and the U.S. President's plan, the minister said that the Israeli plan does not seek peace but only expansion. He stressed that we must counteract this so as to lift the siege of our land, our Arab people and the Palestinian people, to enable them to set up an independent state on their own land.

Concerning an agreement for a meeting between Iraqi and Syrian Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad, Boucetta said that much appreciated efforts were made at the Fes summit by all the Arab brothers to reconcile the viewpoints on some issues. He pointed out that things deteriorated as a result

of the lack of direct contact. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz and His Majesty King Hassaan II exerted efforts in this respect so as to reconcile stances. This was a positive action for the unification of Arab ranks. He said that the attempts which are being exerted now are for the purpose of reconciling the viewpoints of the Arab brothers.

Referring to his recent visit to Cairo, Boucetta said that the visit took place within an African framework so as to present Morocco's views on the OAU.

Regarding Egypt's return to the Arab fold, Boucetta said that this topic was a subject of discussion at the Fes Arab summit; there is a trend of open-mindedness in order to know what every side should do for this to be achieved.

CSO: 4500/11

MOROCCO

BRIEFS

CABINET CHANGES DENIED--Rabat, 9 Oct (KUNA)--Moroccan Government sources denied here today all reports about an impending reshuffle of Prime Minister Maati Bouabid's cabinet. In a statement to KUNA these sources said that "there is no truth in recent reports about an impending Moroccan cabinet reshuffle." Press reports had stated that the present government will be resigning and that King Hussan II will ask (Krim Omrani), the official in charge of the phosphate sector in Morocco to form a new cabinet. [Text]
[LD091644 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1544 GMT 9 Oct 82]

CSO: 4500/11

COMMENTARY ON ISRAEL'S DEMANDS IN LEBANON

LD112320 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Oct 82

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] The spokesman for the enemy Israeli cabinet said his government was not making what he called a peace treaty with Lebanon a precondition for the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanese territory but instead demanded security agreements with Lebanon. Dubious moves by the Israeli enemy to exploit its invasion of Lebanon have taken on a new slant toward what the enemy calls normalizing relations with Lebanon. The enemy, despite awareness that its attempts have been, and still are, rejected by Lebanon, has resorted to exerting pressure on events to make them go through [word indistinct]. Last night's statement by the enemy's cabinet spokesman--that his government would not make the signing of what he called a peace treaty with Lebanon a precondition for the withdrawal of its army from Lebanese territory, but demanded a security agreement--by these words the Israeli official has expressed the true intentions of his government: to not leave Lebanon without exacting a price.

The (?greed) of the Jewish money lender who surrounds his victim on all sides and finally finishes him off after [word indistinct] is clear here. By this unworthy method the enemy's government discusses the process of withdrawing its forces from Lebanon, thus bypassing the statement of Israel's current claim, which is based on the need for what it calls the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, including the Syrian and the Palestinian Fedayeen forces that are currently concentrated in eastern and northern Lebanon.

The statement that must be taken seriously is that Israel will not withdraw its forces from Lebanon even if the Syrians and Palestinians withdraw. This is because the problem is not primarily related to their presence. The basic problem the Israeli enemy faces is that the Lebanese persistently refuse to accept that the Israelis should make gains that are bound to be at Lebanon's expense: people and land at the expense of Lebanon's belonging to the Arab nation: on the other.

The Lebanese cannot allow this to happen. The Lebanese President and his prime minister frankly stated this and this must be understood by the Israelis.

CSO: 4400/19

NEED FOR GULF MILITARY STRENGTH STRESSED

LD111828 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Oct 82

[News analysis by Hashim Abduh Hashim]

[Excerpt] There is no choice for the Arab nation in general and the six Arab Gulf countries in particular but to consolidate military capabilities and guarantee superiority in this field, and not merely to achieve a balance with the hostile forces. Experience has shown that military strength, no matter how superior, requires a belief in supreme objectives, the defense of which makes any kind of sacrifice at any time seem small. This is because the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation fight our people with more than one weapon, strive to destroy us with more than one force and work to settle their differences with us through more than one means, ignoring any values, laws, treaties and international, regional or individual agreements.

The GCC defense minister meeting in Riyadh understands this fact very well. They also understand that the future belongs to the strong and that guaranteeing sovereignty and stability depends on superiority in all senses of the word--economic, social, educational, political and military superiority. This is because the current stage demands the greatest degree of cooperation and coordination, the exertion of efforts to serve the principle of defining military strength and the construction of a strong social structure in the service of this nation and the consolidation of its great existence.

From this premise, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn al-'Aziz confirmed the importance of building our own strength as an absolute priority that supersedes any other interests. International charters and guarantees do not repulse aggression, do not protect right, and do not deter wrongdoing of those in the right unable to defend themselves, as His Royal Highness told his brother GCC defense ministers yesterday. What confirms this conviction are the painful events we saw recently in Lebanon--the inhumane crimes and the massacres to which the two fraternal Lebanese and Palestinian people were subjected at the hands of the Zionist enemy forces. It is also confirmed by the continued armed conflict between two neighboring Muslim countries, Iraq and Iran, and the recent escalation of the war by Iran, a matter that only serves the interests of the enemies of Islam and the Muslims and exhausts the efforts of the two peoples and the blood of their sons.

Yes, the desire for peace, stability and security in the region is one thing and inability, weakness and laxity in building independent strength is another. Full preparations for strength do not contradict the desire to achieve security and stability; that is, if such preparations make available the needed requirements for balance, prevent clashes and prevent the strong dominating the weak.

CSO: 4400/19

SAUDI ARABIA

ISRAELI PLAN SUGGESTS WIDER SCHEME

LD102222 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Oct 82

[Talk by Hashim 'Abdu Hashim]

[Text] There is more than one meaning to Israel's declared intention of releasing a large number of unarmed Palestinians it had arrested during its invasion of Lebanon. The operations that accompanied the mass arrests at the Palestinian camps were not just undertaken at random to liquidate the Palestinian people in Lebanon; they indeed were in accord with a long-term Israeli plan.

The statement by the Israeli official spokesman yesterday evening revealed a few details about this plan and also confirmed that the operation as a whole is taking place in the context of a rancorous scheme aimed at this people. It has something in store for this people; it seeks its complete liquidation in the most suitable conditions.

The Israeli official spokesman said: The Israeli Government has decided to release this fresh number of Palestinian elements and to make the opportunity of residence and all the means of life in southern Lebanon available to them. What does such a measure mean from the political observer's point of view? The Israelis want to turn these thousands of unarmed Palestinians into hostages in southern Lebanon, to use them as a means of putting pressure on Lebanon when they want to, and of threatening the Palestinians when necessary. Such a presence at the Israeli-Lebanese border would put these Palestinians within reach of Israel on the one hand, and Sa'd Haddad on the other. At the same time, such a measure will entrench the Israeli presence in Lebanon, especially if a full settlement of the situation in Lebanon fails to include the liquidation of the presence of Sa'd Haddad, and if the interested parties fail to ensure the evacuation of Israel from all Lebanese territories. Otherwise, why is there this Israeli eagerness that this large number of Palestinians be forced from their original places of residence in various parts of Lebanon, separated from their kin and placed under the mercy [word indistinct] and tyranny of Sa'd Haddad and Ari'el Sharon?

Any acceptance of this fresh Israeli farce by the international community will add a fresh tragedy to the world's [words indistinct], all the more since the fate of these thousands has now become known. The Israelis cannot eliminate these elements in their present camps even if they consider them prisoners of war. But it is the deliberate intent to liquidate them that inspired the Israelis to take this measure with the aim of finding any likely pretext to help them in exterminating them all in a new massacre similar to that of the Sabra and Shatila camps.

What is most strange in this grave Israeli tactic to liquidate the unarmed population of the Palestinian camps is that this measure coincides with another one announced by the UNRWA when it decided to stop assisting the population of the Palestinian camps outside their territories [outside Palestine]. The fact is that this measure suggests that there is a conspiracy more serious than some may imagine--to liquidate the Palestine people, eliminate unarmed civilians and remove any hope from the Palestinian leadership of ever trying to retrieve their legitimate rights and set up their own independent state.

Such a scheme will never be realized, because those who have right on their side cannot fall short of demanding their rights even if the entire international community conspires against them.

CSO: 4400/19

COMMENTARY VIEWS PYM TOUR BACKGROUND HOPEFULLY

LD102148 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Oct 82

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] There was a time when the British role in finding a formula to end the Arab-Israeli conflict came to a halt, perhaps because of how events developed and the emerging variables that caused many Western European countries, foremost of which is Britain, to adopt the stand of an observer. However, it seems that the course of events has provided the opportunity for starting the European move anew. France and Italy, for instance, did just that by participating in the multinational force that entered Lebanon to supervise the process of peace and security.

Britain has verbally expressed readiness to participate actively in the search for a formula to establish a just and durable peace in the area, although it continues to refuse to acknowledge the PLO as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This has pushed the British role yet further, until now, away from tackling the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict: the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to set up their own state on their national soil.

Undoubtedly a British role is imperative and desired for the simple reason that Britain played a roll in the creation of the Zionist entity on the territory of Palestine, starting with the famous declaration by Foreign Secretary Balfour and ending with the British abandoning their obligations at the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict before 1948. This helped to provide the opportunity for the Jews to achieve what they wanted or what was wanted for them.

The British Labor Party declaration, a few days ago, acknowledged the PLO as a legitimate representative for the Palestinian people and then labor denounced the ferocious Israeli practices in Lebanon and against the civilian Palestinian population. All of this has created the impression that the Labor Party, at present in opposition to the ruling Conservative Party, will definitely influence the development of the British stand on the Palestinians and their just demands.

The visit of the British foreign secretary to a number of Arab countries could be one of these developments aimed at collecting elements to form a basis for a more serious and understanding British stand on realities.

CSO: 4400/19

CROWN PRINCE DISCUSSES GULF RELATIONS, DEFENSE CAPABILITIES

LD101658 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 10 Oct 82

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Oct (SPA)--Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah, the first deputy premier and commander of the national guard has said the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] policy and cooperation was part of an "Islamic-Arab policy which aims at achieving close cooperation and relations among brothers in the Islamic and Arab nations." In an interview with the Jidda-based 'UKAZ, published today, Crown Prince 'Abdallah said the council was "not an alliance directed against anybody.

"Our policy is to keep the region free from the super powers' influence and conflicts and preserve its nonaligned status. We also reject the idea of treaties," he added.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah reasserted the council states adherence to the Islamic and Arab nation and said they were fully aware of their role in the international community.

"The council states will not allow anybody to tramp on their rights or sovereignty. The council will remain free to take independent political decisions which suit the member states," he added.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah said "The council states are in no need of concluding agreements to control coordination and cooperation among them.

"Moreover, such a cooperation and coordination now exist among them within the framework of the council states' common goals and their adherence to the Islamic and Arab nation," he added.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah hailed the "prevailing strong brotherly relations among the council states."

Referring to the shortage of manpower in the Gulf region and its effects on the Gulf defence and armament programmes, he said "The modern armament systems do not require more manpower because these systems depend on the quality and not the quantity." Crown Prince 'Abdallah said reports which claimed that the Gulf states were seeking the help of non-Gulf troops to "compensate for this shortage are to create doubts about the capabilities of the council states."

He expressed confidence on the Gulf youth's ability to "absorb and use the most sophisticated weapons in a record time."

REPORT ON PLO LEADERSHIP, GCC MILITARY COORDINATION

LD121334 Riyadh SPA in English 1203 GMT 12 Oct 82

[Press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Oct (SPA)--A Saudi newspaper today deplored what it called campaigns launched by certain parties to raise doubts on Yasir 'Arafat's leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Palestinian people.

The Mecca based AL-NADWA regretted that these parties had "not learned any lesson from the past and present developments in the Arab arena, following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

"After the Palestinian revolution has sustained a heavy blow in Lebanon and Beirut as a result of a conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinian cause, some parties have resorted to raise questions about 'Arafat's leadership of the organisation and the Palestinian people," the paper added.

It said the current situation required from all Arab parties to "rise to the level of their responsibility and change their attitude which led the nation to this ordeal."

Commenting on the conference held by defence ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), AL-RIYAD, published here, said "The meeting has concluded its deliberations without any propaganda or fuss as has been customary in such cases.

"Unity and cooperation among brothers in the Gulf region emanates from a common feeling and collective responsibility," the paper added.

It said the council's oil ministers conference opening in Oman tomorrow would discuss one important aspect of the Gulf economy since they would review plans to distribute oil projects among member states to avoid the current duplication in existing schemes.

The Jidda-based AL-MADINAH said Saudi second deputy premier and defence and aviation minister Prince Sultan had clearly analysed the current crucial events in the Gulf region and highlighted the military responsibility of Gulf military commanders.

The paper added that Prince Sultan's opening address at the meeting had stressed the importance of cooperation among the council's states at all levels.

It said Prince Sultan's remarks very rightly noted the current events in the region had proved that international guarantees and charters could not ward off (?aggressors) if right-owners were unable to defend themselves.

"The only guarantee to deter foreign ambitions and foil the enemies' plans is to increase our defence capabilities," the paper added.

The al-Dammam-based AL-YAWM said "Military coordination among the Gulf states cuts short the way to a comprehensive military coordination among the Arab states and paves the way for the implementation of the long forgotten joint Arab defence treaty."

The Jidda-based AL-BILAD said "Military cooperation is a practical measure for developing the Gulf military, political and diplomatic force."

CSO: 4400/19

COMMENTARY ON HUSAYN-'ARAFAT TALKS

LD122356 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Oct 82

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Informed sources in Amman say that His Majesty King Husayn, of Jordan, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, have reached a joint strategy on which to base efforts to solve the Palestinian issue.

Talk about a Jordanian-Palestinian strategy that will be a formula to confront current and future stages within the framework of an Arab move for finding a just and durable peace founded on the core of the issue--the Palestinian people--is preoccupying those Arab quarters observing the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn, the monarch of Jordan, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO. This meeting assumes special importance, since it comes in circumstances that are marked by numerous changes that make it imperative for Arab nation to move swiftly to keep options in Arab hands and also within the framework of the Arab consensus shown at the Arab summit conference in Fes. This consensus resulted from the Arab conviction of the need, and indeed of the inevitability, for the Arab stance to move from stagnation to activity, shifting strongly to find the just and durable solution, a solution based on recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of their own state on their own national soil.

The talks between His Majesty and the PLO chairman are part of the Arab conviction of the need for options to remain in Arab hands. Years of experience have proved that the lack of a united Arab decision have made the Arabs lose many opportunities and have given their enemy his chances. The present is characterized by the clarity of Arab vision and a sincere desire for initiatives to remain in Arab hands. This gives hope that the Arabs realize the gravity of the current stage and that its gravity might increase if the Arabs left it. Thus affairs would be allowed to proceed into a maze of competitive bids, not for anything positive but because one Arab party or parties feels that his position has been defeated by the other Arab side. What is reassuring is the fact that such feelings have disappeared from the Arab arena after the resolutions of the Fes summit conference, which asserted that the Arabs are a single hand and that their future stands will be (?one) [words indistinct].

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BRIEFS

'ARAFAT VISITS JORDAN--Yasir 'Arafat is continuing his visit to Jordan which began last Saturday. This visit in the wake of the 12th Arab summit conference in Fes, Morocco, constitutes a noteworthy development in Jordanian-Palestinian relations, remarkable because they offer (?prospects), which do not exist in many other relations. Jordan is the neighbor linked most physically to Palestine, not only geographically, but also socially, economically and politically. It is the only country whose connections were not severed with the Arab community in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip despite the 16-year Israeli occupation. 'Arafat's visit to Jordan comes at a time when united Arab opinion has crystallized regarding a just and comprehensive peace in the region and the bases upon which it is founded, together with the emergence of a new American stance which does not recognize Israel's claim of divine right to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and which also advocates granting the West Bank and Gaza Strip autonomy linked to Jordan. [Excerpt] [LD121504 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Oct 82]

MIDEAST PEACE MOVE--The statements made by European officials on the Palestine problem in which they confirm the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to set up an independent state have clearly shown the extent of the positive interaction gained by the Palestinian people's cause in the international arena. When Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky declared that several European countries are now studying recognition of the PLO, he confirmed an important fact, that the European world has begun to understand the truth about the situation in the Middle East on the basis of the realization of Israel's aggressive nature, which for long has deceived European public opinion with its [word indistinct] propagandist methods. This also confirms that the opportunity is there in an unprecedented form for Arab moves to have positive effects and results. If West European countries wish to make an effective and positive contribution with regard to the Middle East they should hasten to recognize the PLO, which legitimately represents the Palestinian people, in addition to convincing the American administration that such a recognition is the correct start for any just peaceful settlement toward solving the Middle East problem. A European move in this case must take another direction toward Israel. All possible pressure must be put on it to make it accept international demands calling for the Palestinian people to be allowed to achieve its firm and legitimate rights. It goes without saying

that such a move toward the Zionist entity will have no positive result unless it is accompanied by practical, direct and effective pressure harboring a European determination to find a just peace in the Middle East which would abort Israel's attempts to explode the situation in the region and consequently threaten the security and stability of the world. [passage indistinct] [Text] [LD111756 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Oct 82]

PRINCE SULTAN INTERVIEW--Riyadh, 10 Oct (SPA)--There is no need to set up a separate joint Gulf force as Gulf states are homogeneous and consider their forces as a common unified force, Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan was quoted as saying in an interview published today. He told an Omani magazine JUND 'UMAN published by the Omani Armed Forces that since many years the military cooperation among the member states of the Gulf Council States are also exchanging military know-how and making use of the existing military academies, he added. Prince Sultan said since the formation of the council there was a marked improvement in exchange of information among the Gulf academies, specially in technical studies. Commenting on a proposal to set up joint military colleges and institutes for the council states, Prince Sultan said the issue was discussed by the council's defence ministers in their last meeting and its chiefs of staff. "Military bodies have been entrusted to discuss the issue further," he added. Commenting on measures to preserve the Gulf region's security Prince Sultan said "The council states have signed bilateral internal security agreements in this regard." He hoped the forthcoming GCC interior ministers conference would reach a joint security agreement among the council states. The council is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. [Text] [LD102034 Riyadh SPA in English 1944 GMT 10 Oct 82]

'FLYING HOSPITAL' PROVES EFFECTIVE--Riyadh, 15 Sep--Saudi Arabia's New C-130 "flying hospital" has proved to be a very efficient vehicle for quick delivery of modern medical treatment to citizens in far flung locations, according to Major General Rida Khalifa, director of the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces Medical Services. During its first year of operation, the airborne hospital airlifted over 90 persons from remote sites to central medical centers, according to Khalifa. In addition, numerous emergency operations were conducted at distant spots. In one outstanding case, General Khalifa personally headed a surgical team from Riyadh Medical Hospital which carried out two emergency cardiac operations at Solayel, 70 miles south of Riyadh. The Hospital Hercules [in boldface] flew to Solayel, arriving within two hours following the emergency call, landing on a short gravel strip. "Both operations went extremely well," stated Dr. Alister Duff, a team member. "It was reassuring to find that the patients were exposed to no extra risk, considering the unusual circumstances. Medical care and equipment on the C-130 equal those of any ground-fixed hospital." During the operations, the medical team was in constant radio contact with another team in Riyadh, monitoring data from the patients fed by radio into the Riyadh hospital. Built by Lockheed-Georgia Company and modified to the hospital configuration by Lockheed Aircraft Service Company, the C-130 was selected for the mission due to its ability to reach remote areas and land on rough terrain.

Its high-wing design allows the fuselage to be close to the ground, facilitating the loading of patients and equipment. First Lieutenant Khaled Al-Hamdad recalled airlifting a seriously ill heart patient to England. "We kept in touch with the Riyadh Hospital until just minutes before landing in London," he said. Saudi Arabia's C-130 "flying hospital" is expected to play a continuing life-saving role in the future, according to Dr. Duff. "In a country like Saudi Arabia, where emergencies can occur in remote areas sometimes inaccessible by road, the hospital airplane can be crucial. "For instance, by road, it would have taken us 15 hours to reach Solayel," he said, "whereas from take-off preparation in Riyadh to the start of surgery on the strip at Solayel took only two hours in the C-130. That time difference speaks for itself." [Text] [Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 16 Sep 82 p 2]

DUTCH, ITALIAN SHARE PIPELINE CONTRACT--Saudi Arabia has chosen the Dutch engineering and construction company, Hak Pijpleidingen, to carry out most of the work on a major water pipeline project to bring desalinated water from Shuwaba on the Red Sea to the cities of Taif and Mecca. Working in partnership with a Saudi trading group, Al-Rashid, the Dutch firm will provide a number of installations in an agreement worth about \$460 million. A \$133 million order for pipes for the project has gone to the Italian company Sider Exports. The project, which is being carried out under the auspices of the Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC), will cost a total of \$578 million and is due to be completed within 40 months. The work includes a 13-kilometre tunnel and eight reservoirs. Last month, SWCC awarded contracts for a \$425 million project to supply Jizan and Abha with desalinated Red Sea water to Italian, Turkish and Lebanese firms (AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO, September 6). [Text [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 32, 27 Sep 82 pp 8-9]

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